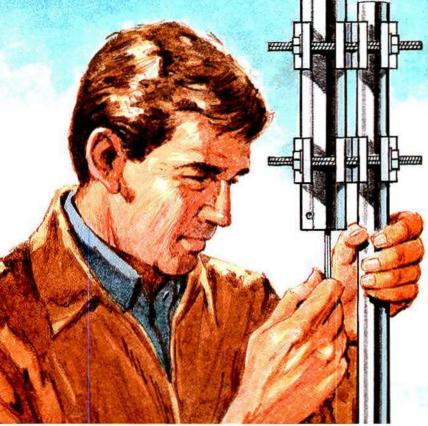


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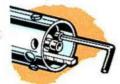
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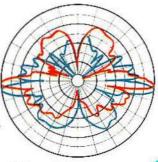
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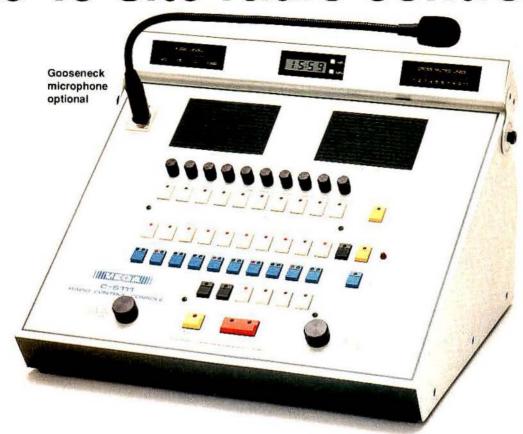






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Circle (4) on Fast Fact Card

Volume 11, Issue 4

The journal of mobile communications technology

features _____

10 How to construct towers for performance, safety, stability

Fred Moore

Choosing the right tower for the mobile radio base station site helps to meet the service priority.

18 Aluminum towers fit light-duty applications

Don Bishop

Temporary radio communications antenna installation requirements may be met with light-duty aluminum towers.

28 Use a unified approach for lightning protection

Bruce A. Kaiser

Effective lightning protection combines bonding and grounding, transient voltage surge suppression and structural lightning protection into a unified system.

38 Inspection programs improve site management results

Bruce A. Kaiser

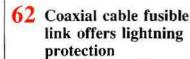
Use an appropriate inspection program to plan acquisitions, preventive maintenance and upgrades.

50 Adjusting deviation for FM microwave transmitters

Jeff Ashley

Three formulas help technicians to deviate FM microwave transmitters using a variety of test equipment.

On the cover: Radio tower monitoring specialists trained to work with alarms, remote interrogation and programming, staff the central monitoring station at LODA, San Antonio, TX.



Richard Cartoscelli

Small-diameter braided-shield cable may act as a fuse to prevent lightning surge currents from damaging electronic equipment.

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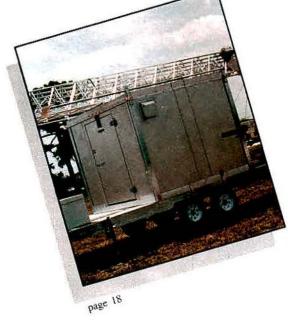
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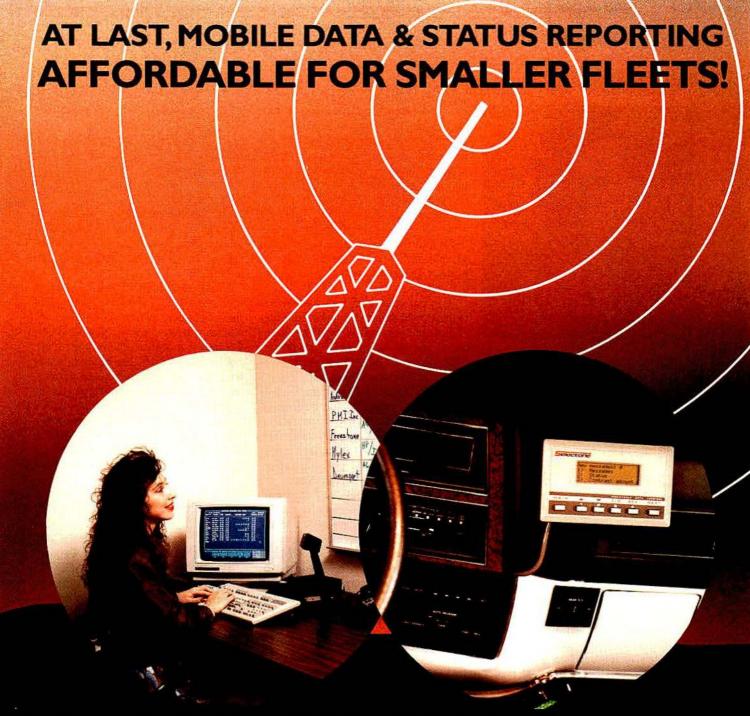
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E ditorial

Scanning . . .



Where we're going

The trend away from componentlevel troubleshooting and toward systems integration continues.

Technicians are spending less time troubleshooting electronic equipment and more time maintaining systems.

Individual pieces of equipment increasingly are becoming "black boxes" whose inner workings many technicians cannot repair because of the micro-miniature nature of their construction, their reliance on software and their complexity. Often, it is not worth the time required to repair them if a repair can be made.

At the same time, individual pieces of equipment are growing increasingly reliable. Thus, the need to repair them continues to diminish.

Systems in which individual pieces of equipment are installed are becoming more complex. Technicians are moving more into what once was the domain of engineers as they are called upon more often to design radio communications systems, such as the placement and connection of paging transmitters, radio repeaters and the media that link them (telephone wires, radio links and microwave links, usually).

The industry continues to be driven by the supply of its underlying natural resource: radio spectrum. As the supply increases, so do the sales of radio communications equipment. An oversupply does not seem to be imminent.

Presently, the radio communications

spectrum supply is increasing in two ways. The FCC has allocated an additional band of frequencies to private land mobile radio users, and digital radio modulation technology is multiplying the number of users that can share existing spectrum.

Although public networks may be attracting some customers among those that previously have relied upon private networks, it seems that the number of private networks is growing, too.

Personal communications networks, cellular telephone networks and specialized mobile radio (SMR) networks are in the public network category.

The private network category includes radio communications systems owned by those who use them, such as public safety agencies and businesses.

Digital SMR system construction will boost the sales of equipment shelters, coaxial cable, antennas, power supplies, mobile and portable radios, repeaters and control equipment.

Digital SMR systems may draw customers away from community repeaters, as cellular telephone systems have drawn customers away from Improved Mobile Telephone Service (IMTS) systems. It remains to be seen whether many private network operators will switch to SMR and other public networks.

New regulatory environment

In February, the Clinton administration was talking about making government services more responsive.

"The people are our customers," the President's chief of staff said at a news conference. He said that government agencies should pay more attention to the needs of the public and less to their own convenience.

The agency whose actions have the most effect on radio communications service providers and users is the FCC. Despite positive achievements, there is room for improvement in every organization, and the FCC is no exception.

Sometimes, in sidestepping the public interest to one degree or another, the FCC states that a decision is taken because of the economy or convenience it provides the agency. Maybe, with the right encouragement from the administration, the agency's own interests can be eliminated from its decision-making.

RCC vs. PCP

Among the problems that continue to need FCC attention is intentional interference some paging system operators cause to other paging system operators.

The most visible situation of this type usually involves an established radio common carrier (RCC) that vandalizes a private carrier paging (PCP) frequency to defeat PCP competition.

PCP frequencies are shared, so an RCC can obtain a license to activate transmitters on the same frequency as a new PCP competitor. Some RCCs apparently obtain such licenses for the sole purpose of repeating their existing RCC traffic on the PCP channel to tie it up and prevent the PCP operator from serving customers.

There are plenty of reasons why repeating RCC traffic on a PCP channel violates the terms of a PCP license about 15 reasons, according to a lawsuit filed on behalf of a PCP licensee that is trying to motivate the FCC to offer protection from such interference.

For example, the RCC traffic is common carrier, meaning it has not been screened to ensure that the users fit the eligibility requirements for service on a PCP channel. In fact, RCCs cannot screen their users, under common carrier rules.

Conversely, PCP channels are not authorized for common carrier service, but that is how RCCs that repeat their paging traffic on PCP channels are using them.

RCCs resell telephone service; PCPs cannot. There is a component of reselling in what an RCC charges its customers, and that component remains with the service on the PCP channel, contrary to PCP rules.

It would be good to see FCC protection extended to PCPs that are suffering from interference because of PCP transmitters operated by RCCs contrary to the terms of their licenses.

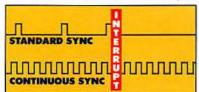
-Don Bishop

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19-22-Supercomm and Telocator Wireless Conference, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. Contact: 800-326-8638

21-23—North Central Regional Conference Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers Meeting, Radisson Inn Bismarck, Bismarck, ND. Contact: Lyle V. Gallagher, 701-224-2127.

12-14-Mobile Communications Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Business and Educational Radio (NABER), Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio. Contact: 800-759-0300.

16-19—East Coast Regional Conference Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers Meeting, Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact: Bill Marriott, 804-247-8431.

18-20—Vehicular Technology Conference, sponsored by IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus, NJ. Contact: Mel Lewis, Loral Electronics, 914-968-2500, ext. 2304.

26-28-RadioComm, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. Contact; Lisa La Prairie, 613-233-4888.

June

29-July 1-Utilities Telecommunications Council Annual Meeting, San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter and Convention Center, San Antonio. Contact: Rita Clark, 301-621-7802.

July

18-22--Forestry-Conservation Communications Association, Jackson, WY. Contact: Don Pfohl, 602-644-3166.

24-28-International Municipal Signal Association, Norfolk, VA. Contact: Harold Glerum, 800-723-4672.

August

8-13-Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers 59th National Conference, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans. Contact: 800-824-1850.

September

21-23-International Mobile Communications Expo/Fall, Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia. Contact: 303-220-0600.

28-Oct. 1-Mobile Communications Marketplace, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans. Contact; Telocator, 800-326-8638.

October

6-9-Industrial Telecommunications Association Annual Meeting, La Quinta Hotel, La Quinta, CA. Contact: Barbara J. Levermann, 703-

12-13-SMR/Private Carrier Management Conference, Loews Coronado Hotel, San Diego, CA. Contact: 202-331-7773.

16-21-International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference, Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis, MO. Contact: 703-836-6767.

November

11-14—Communications Marketing Conference, Holiday Inn Riverwalk, San Antonio. Contact: Gene Johnson, Vega Signaling, 818-442-

19-Radio Club of America Awards Banquet, New York Athletic Club. New York. Contact: 201-652-6811.

1994

February

7-8—AMTEX, the American Mobile Telecommunications Association's Marketing and Technology Conference and Exposition, Marriott on International Drive, Orlando, Contact; 202-331-7773.

March

2-4—Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association Winter Meeting and Exposition, San Diego. Contact: 202-785-0081.

6-9-Energy Telecommunications and Electrical Association, Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, San Antonio. Contact: 214-235-0655.



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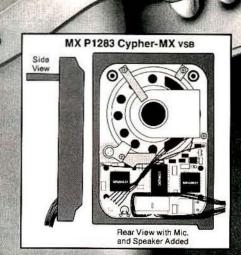
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Circle (7) on Fast Fact Card



Receiver bandwidth and the frequency-modulated signal

By Harold Kinley, CET

It is important that an FM receiver's bandwidth be wide enough to accommodate a fully deviated FM signal.

Unless the bandwidth is wide enough to accommodate the FM sidebands, severe distortion results. This distortion can cause squelch blocking on fully modulated signals.

Figure 1 below shows the instantaneous frequency excursions from the carrier frequency (f_C). Here, a 1,000Hz audio modulating tone (f_M) is

Kinley is a certified electronics technician with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, Spartanburg, SC. He is the author of Standard Radio Communications Manual: With Instrumentation and Testing Techniques, Prentice-Hall, 1985. frequency-modulating the carrier at a deviation level of $\pm 5 \text{kHz}$. If the receiver bandwidth were perfectly flat to $\pm 5 \text{kHz}$ as shown by the box outline, it would appear that all of the modulated signal would fall within the receiver's passband. Not so.

FM spectrum

Unlike an AM signal, where, with single-tone modulation, there are only two sidebands, in an FM signal there are (theoretically) an *infinite* number of sidebands spaced on either side of the carrier at $f_C \pm f_M \pm 2f_M \pm 3f_M...$ This means that, for the FM transmission mode to be *distortion-free*, an infinite bandwidth is required.

Nevertheless, as a practical matter, it has been established that a lowdistortion signal results with a bandwidth containing only those sidebands that represent 98% of the unmodulated carrier power. Sideband *pairs* that represent at least 2% of the unmodulated carrier power are called the *significant* sidebands.

The formula known as Carson's rule for establishing the minimum required bandwidth for frequency modulation is:

$$B_W = 2(\Delta f - 1)f_M$$

where

Bw = bandwidth

 $\Delta f = \text{maximum frequency deviation}$

 $f_{\rm M}$ = modulating frequency

In his 1968 book Communications Systems published by McGraw-Hill, Bruce A. Carlson established the following formula as "... a better approximation for equipment design to determine 3dB bandwidth of RF and IF amplifiers . . .":

$$B_W \approx 2(\Delta f + 2f_M)$$

Sideband power

The figures in Table 1 bottom left were taken from a Bessel function chart.

The table gives the voltage amplitude of all of the FM signal's *significant* sidebands relative to the unmodulated carrier-voltage amplitude when the modulation index (β) is 5.0.

The formula for finding modulation index (β) is:

$$\beta = \Delta f/f_{\rm M}$$

Examine Figure 2 on page 64.

This graph illustrates the power distribution of at least 98% of the FM spectrum power given Figure 1's modulating conditions. The modulating tone (f_M) is 1,000Hz; the frequency deviation (Δf) is 5kHz; and the modulation index (β) is 5.0.

Notice in Figure 2 that significant sideband pairs extend out to $f_C \pm 6kHz$. If a receiver had a passband represented by Figure 1, the sideband

(continued on page 64)

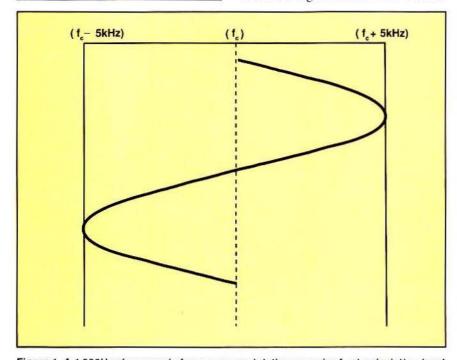


Figure 1. A 1,000Hz sine wave is frequency-modulating a carrier f_C at a deviation level of ± 5 kHz. The modulation index (β) is 5.0. The boxed outline represents the receiver passband. Notice that the *instantaneous* frequency excursions at the maximum and minimum points do not exceed the receiver's passband.

Table 1—The voltage amplitude of all of the significant sidebands of the FM signal relative to the unmodulated voltage when the modulation index is 5.0.

| β | fc | fc±fM | fc±2fM | fc±3fM | fc±4fm | fc±5fM | fc±6fM |
|---|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 5 | .1776 | .3276 | .0466 | .3648 | .3912 | .2611 | .131 |

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How to construct towers for performance, safety, stability

Constant, consistent coverage assures mobile radio communications service customers of continued service. Choosing the right tower for the mobile radio base station site helps to meet the service priority.

By Fred Moore

Tower leg construction and other support mechanisms should be considered when buying a radio communications tower.

Most commonly, the three choices for tower leg construction are solidleg, tubular and angular. Mobile radio system operators concerned with cost

Moore is vice president of FWT, Fort Worth, TX. He specializes in communications towers.

and the value of their equipment, which may be attached to a tower, need to be aware of tower construction options to make an informed selection.

Table I below compares the relative performance of the three tower types.

Advantages and disadvantages

Solid and tubular legs have different advantages than angular legs for mobile radio tower construction. Solid and tubular legs have a lower wind load and more efficient cross-sections. They can be manufactured in many sizes.

Solid legs limit corrosion to the outside of the leg where it can be seen

A tubular leg, though, may corrode from the inside. The corrosion is not discovered until it erodes to the outside of the leg. This corrosion can result from condensation or from debris that is blocking a weep hole or a drainage hole, where water may accumulate.

In cold climates, the water turns to ice that can crack or split the leg.

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|---|---|--|------------------------|
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| Vulnerability to rust (percent of member that is lost if 1/16" rusts away) | 9% | 37% | 29% |
| Freezing water | Not an issue | Possible to get trapped, freeze and split leg | Not an issue |
| Price comparison (based on several tower designs) | 100% | 100% | 115% |
| ource: Paul J. Ford & Company Engineerin | g, Columbus, OH. | | |
| cenario: 100kip load on 36ksi steel with a 5-fo trength members were selected to compare he table illustrates the performance charac eg and 6-inch × 6-inch × 7/se-inch angular- | the performance fea teristics of 2.75-incl | tures of solid-leg, tubular-leg and a | ingular-leg steel towe |



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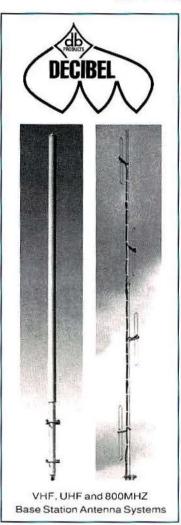
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likely to occur for many years after installation. But because the cost of solid-leg and tubular-leg towers is similar and the repair cost of a split or corroded leg is an additional expense. the solid-leg tower often is preferred.

Records show that solid-leg towers resist damage during construction and antenna-mounting far better than tubular or angular towers.

Disasters that most often affect towers include tornadoes, hurricanes, gale winds and ice storms. Careful calculation and early preparation can help to prevent such disasters from causing irreparable damage to a mobile radio tower and the equipment it supports.

Tower selection plays a role in di-

Tower selection plays a role in disaster preparation. Solid-leg towers sway less during wind and earth movements. Excessive swaying can damage or destroy a tower.

saster preparation. Solid-leg towers sway less during wind and earth movements. Excessive swaying can damage or destroy a tower.

An on-going maintenance program to keep the tower in top condition is important, too.

To cope with the aftermath of a disaster, a disaster recovery plan should be prepared. By following the plan, a mobile radio system operator can repair a damaged tower more quickly or deploy and install a new tower rapidly. Down time represents a loss of income from daily operations.

Flexibility in design is a key element in expanding a tower's use.

Incorporate maximum antenna loads into the tower design. If a tower is not designed for a growing load when it is



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constructed, frequently it cannot be upgraded without significant additional cost.

It is not a good idea merely to increase antenna loads without first estimating the loads' effects on the tower. It is much more accurate and safe to estimate anticipated future loads during initial tower design, ensuring that the tower has growth capacity.

A solid-bar tower supports an increased load more effectively compared to tubular-leg and angular-leg towers. On the other hand, for lighter loads and little or no anticipated growth, a tubular-leg or angular-leg tower may be appropriate.

Mill specifications

When purchasing a tower, always ask for mill certifications to confirm that the tower is constructed of steel with the strength specified by the engineering design.

It is common to construct towers with high-strength steel. Yet, the highest-strength steel may not be the best choice because the higher the strength, the more brittle the steel.

Determining wind and ice load is critical to designing a stable tower.

Here are some comparisons of relative steel strength:

| STEEL STRENGTH | COMMENT |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 36ksi | Lower strength |
| 50ksi | Best |
| 65ksi | High strength, but too brittle |

ksi = 1,000 pounds per square inch

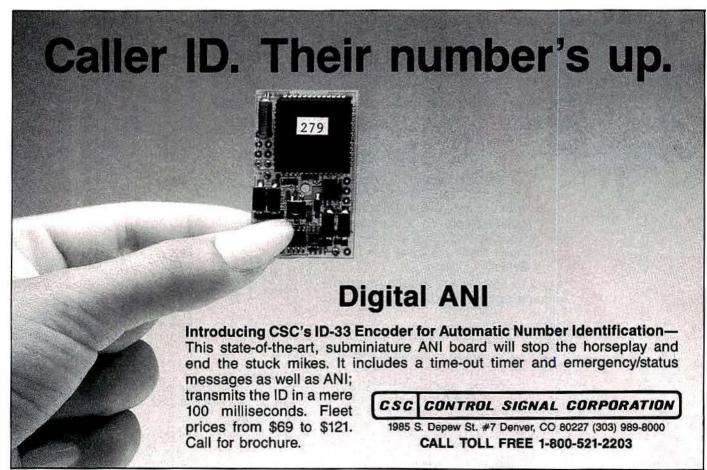
Some manufacturers may state that high-strength steel is better than a standard 50ksi steel. Actually, the highstrength steel-65ksi-is more brittle.

Using high-strength steel allows the manufacturer to reduce the size of the steel members, which saves money, but the reduction allows more tower

Determining wind and ice load is critical to designing a stable tower.

Be sure all vendors use the same wind and ice load in their calculations. The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) wrote guidelines for uniform, standard tower design. These standards are based on the American National Standards Institute publication ANSI A58.1, which serves as a guide for most building codes.

The EIA standard specifies a minimum design wind velocity on a county-by-county basis, but it does not make recommendations regarding radial ice accumulation. Specific areas, such as the Great Lakes coastline and Rocky Mountain peaks, are considered





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special wind regions for which the EIA makes no wind velocity recommendations.

The burden of choosing the correct design wind velocity and ice accumulation lies with the tower purchaser.

The EIA standard cautions that "very tall towers may experience large thicknesses of in-cloud icing over portions of the mast." If the purchaser does not specify ice accumulation, this critical design consideration may be ignored by some tower manufacturers in this highly competitive market.

In most locations, the maximum design wind velocity and ice accumulation do not occur simultaneously. For this reason, the EIA standard allows a 25% reduction in wind load when ice is considered. This wind load reduc-

tion often is considered automatically by tower manufacturers unless the tower purchaser specifically states that the maximum wind and ice should be considered to occur simultaneously.

Assessing the choices

Foremost, seek a vendor with experience in manufacturing mobile radio towers.

That experience should extend to all areas of tower construction. Seek vendors that have been in the business at least 20 years. Find out how much of that experience is with tower construction specifically.

A tower manufacturer should offer all three options in member construction: solid-leg, tubular-leg and angular-leg. Flexibility is important in

In most locations, the maximum design wind velocity and ice accumulation do not occur simultaneously.

meeting customer needs. Although the advantages of solid-leg tower construction are clear, a customer should have the option to choose what he perceives as most appropriate for the application.

Inquire about the effect that lastminute changes to the design have on the cost. Such changes do not necessarily have to mean cost increases.

Final considerations

Because constant service and air time are a priority, purchasing a reliable tower for long-term use is an important decision.

Safety and site considerations are important factors in mobile radio tower erection. Stability and load planning can affect the tower's useful life.



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Aluminum towers fit light-duty applications

Temporary radio communications antenna installation requirements may be met with light-duty aluminum towers. Trailer-mounted portable towers can support communications at emergency locations.

By Don Bishop **Editorial Director**

Agencies and radio shops that must provide emergency and temporary radio communications sometimes can use light-duty aluminum towers, including crank-up and portable modmay fit some applications better than their heavy-duty, steel counterparts.

T.E. Gottry, vice president of Aluma Towers, Vero Beach, FL, sells the bulk of his products to radio communications equipment dealers and users, cellular telephone carriers and government agencies. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Gottry explained. "Citrus workers use big, heavy ladders to pick fruit from the trees. Somebody decided to make harvesting easier—and possibly to extend the workday by reducing the pickers' fatigue-by making a lightweight aluminum ladder. After 10,000 feet of various sizes of tubing were purchased, safety officials blocked the project:

'No way are you going to use aluminum ladders in orange groves with the lightning problems we have in this state,' they said.

"So the man had 10,000 feet of aluminum tubing he didn't know what to do with. His father was an amateur radio operator, and that led him to design a 3-section tower instead. The lighter section fit home TV reception applications. The other sections, put together as a 2-section tower, fit amateur radio applications. Thus, a need to dispose of the otherwise useless tubing got the business started back in the mid-'60s," Gottry said.

The 15 current tower models are assembled from four standard sizes of sections. The tallest, a 100-foot tower, is made of four 25-foot sections.

The welds, such as the one shown in Photo 2 on page 20, show gaps. Gottry explained why.

'First, if we tried to close that weld all the way up, it would pressurize the tube and blow one of the welds out continually. You'd get a blowout because of the expansion of air trapped



Photo 1. Trailer-mounted towers support antennas used for emergency and temporary radio communications.

els, to support antennas. (See Photo 1 above.)

Most aluminum towers currently manufactured may not meet loadbearing and height requirements for permanent communications sites, but with their portability, light weight and ease of installation, aluminum towers

uses portable aluminum crank-up towers on some of its radio communications vans, as do state, county and local public safety agencies.

Gottry has managed the company since 1974. The company originated as a ladder-manufacturing project. "Florida has a lot of citrus groves,"

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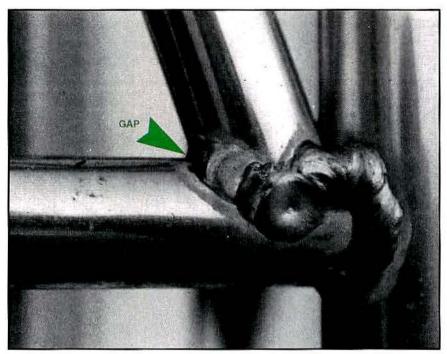


Photo 2. Tower welds have gaps because a closed weld would pressurize the tube and blow out one of the welds. Gaps do not weaken the weld because the welded joint is stronger than the tubing it joins. Welding is done via the tungsten inert gas (TIG) process.

inside the tube. There is such a tight fit, the way we cut and notch the tube, that if one weld were closed, another would blow out.

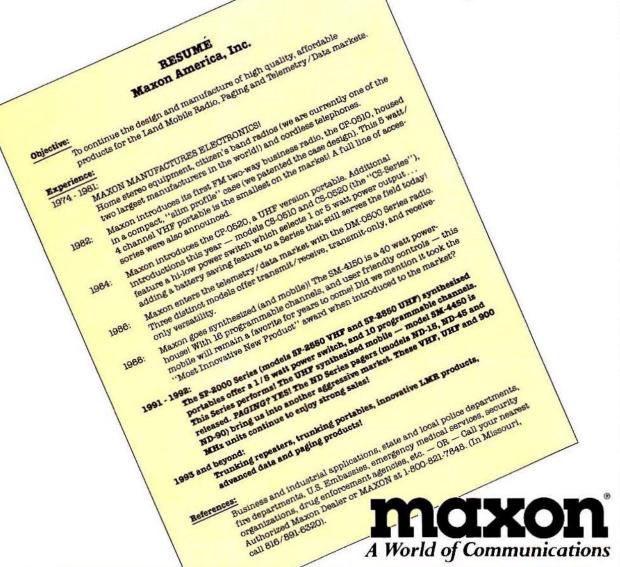
"Second, the welded joint is stronger than the tubing it joins. If the joint were heated too much more, the heat would soften the tubing."

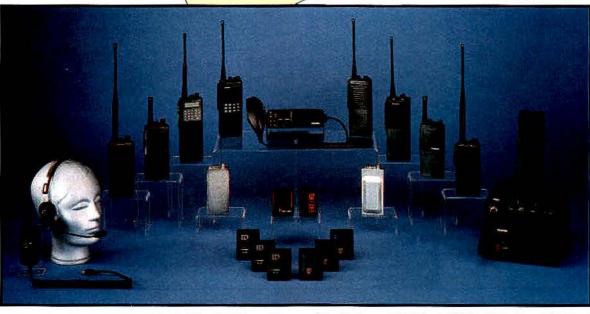
Welding is done via the tungsten inert gas (TIG) process. A nonconsumable tungsten is the welding electrode. A filler rod of aluminum provides material for the weld. "The process is much like brazing," Gottry explained. "You're melting the rod with the tungsten, and you're feeding the rod with your other hand."

The other type of aluminum welding, MIG, is used on occasion to produce welds on trailers built to carry portable towers. "With MIG, you feed the wire through and the wire becomes the electrode," Gottry said. "MIG welding is faster, and it is used with thicker metals. It produces a less attractive result, so the MIG process is not used for the towers.'



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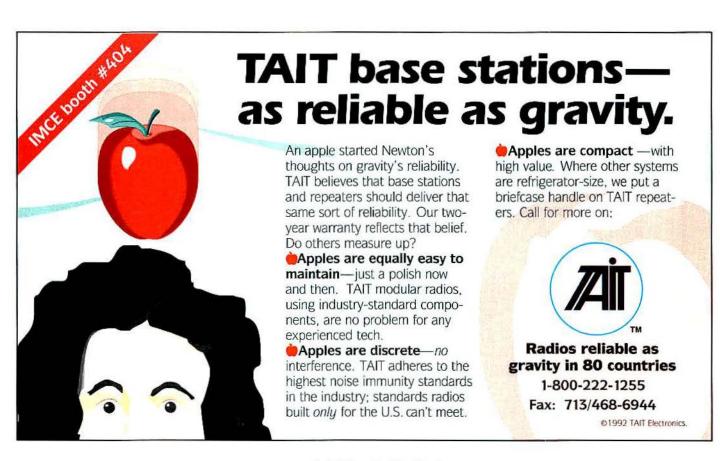
Photo 3. Some tower bases are hinged so the tower can be tilted over. One person can 'walk down' a light-duty tower.

He said gaps in the tower welds have nothing to do with moisture drainage. "Only a small bit of condensation can get in," Gottry said, "and it has not been a problem." In addition, the tower legs normally are not sealed at the base. Usually, they are supported above a concrete slab on a mounting base that allows the legs to drain.

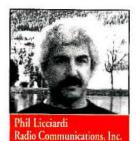
Tower bases

Most of the towers have bolted bases instead of having legs that extend into concrete. The towers are not truly freestanding. Normally, they are attached to an adjacent building by a bracket at eight feet above ground. Even the short towers normally have a bracket or guy wires, so they do not require massive concrete foundations. A small pad, two feet or three feet square and a foot or so deep, serves in frost-free parts of the country. "At colder latitudes, the base should extend below the frost line so it won't heave in freezing weather," Gottry said.

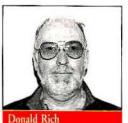
Some of the bases are hinged so the



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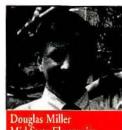
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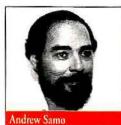


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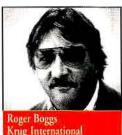
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tower can be tilted over. (See Photo 3 on page 22.) "One person can 'walk down' a light-duty tower," Gottry said.

Bases for the heavy-duty towers are more rugged, and a base with rods that can be mounted into concrete is offered.

Plastic rollers

Short sections of polyvinyl chloride

(PVC) tubing are fitted over some of the cross-braces in crank-up towers to serve as rollers that reduce friction as one tower section passes another. When towers are shipped to extremely cold climates, the PVC rollers are replaced with aluminum rollers, "PVC would become too brittle and shatter in extreme cold," Gottry said.

The PVC rollers are long-lasting.

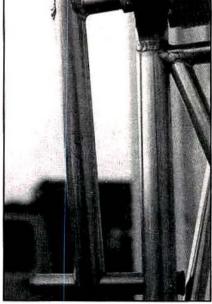


Photo 4. There are two ways to lock the tower. The first is to position the hand crank as shown and lock it in place with a

bicycle lock.

"We've been building the towers since '74. Among the towers we've gotten back, the rollers have shown no deterioration. We have yet to find the PVC's life," he said.

"We install aluminum rollers when somebody wants to put a finish of some type on the tower, such as powder coating or paint," Gottry continued. "Then the tower can be baked or anything else can be done to it without worrying about having plastic rollers that would interfere with the baking process or powder coating."

There are two ways to lock the tower. The first is to position the hand crank as shown in Photo 4 above. "You could lock that with a bicycle lock," Gottry said.

A safety stop engages at the conclusion of the crank-up process. "You raise the tower to the desired height, then bring it back down slightly," Gottry said. "The safety stop engages. allowing one of the inner rungs to rest on it."

A nylon rope controls the safety stop, and a stainless-steel cable bears the load. (See Photo 5 on page 26.) A pull on the rope disengages the stop. "A lot of people remark about the two lines,' Gottry said. "They both reel up nicely. We never get a backlash or rat's nest with any of this. Depending on the

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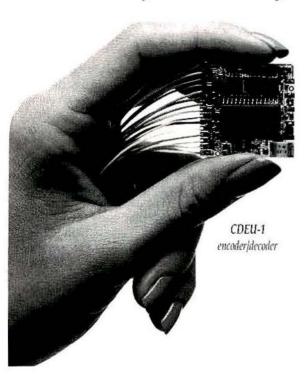
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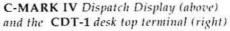
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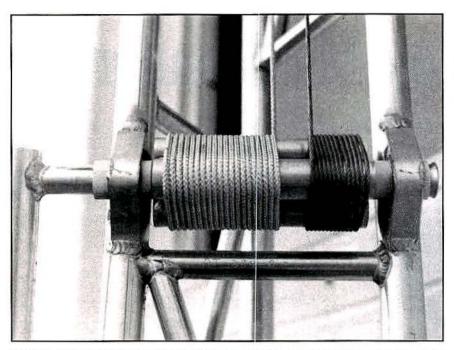


Photo 5. A second way to lock the tower is to use the safety stop that engages at the conclusion of the crank-up process. The tower is raised to the desired height, then brought down slightly. The safety stop engages, allowing one of the inner rungs to rest on it. A nylon rope controls the safety stop and a stainless steel cable bears the load. A pull on the rope disengages the stop.

conditions it is subjected to, the nylon cord needs replacing in five or six years because it loses tension."

Cleaning a tower

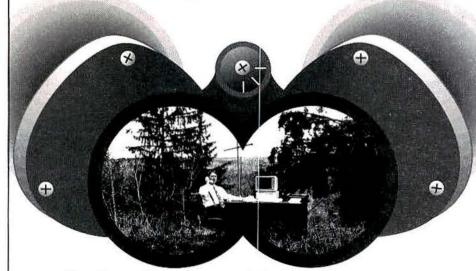
Cleaning a used tower or one that has been stored under dirty conditions is simple. Gottry retrieved a 10-yearold tower when its owner converted from over-the-air to cable TV reception. "We took the tower to the car wash, hosed it and waxed it. It didn't look bad at all."

Chemical solutions can be used, too. Gottry said Alumibright is among the two or three solutions with which he is familiar. He said Alumibright contains sulphuric or hydrochloric acid, and warned that the solution etches the aluminum and removes its shine.

About the only displeasing aspect of the tower is its tendency to turn light gray or milky white from oxidation in ordinary weathering conditions. The oxidation is harmless, but it will transfer from the tower to hands and clothes.



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- □ Bond all electrical, electronic and metallic masses with conductors so they are at the same electrical potential.
- ☐ Connect the shelter bonding system so the site equipment connects with the grounding system at one point
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- Ground the shelter and surround it with a buried counterpoise.
- □ Ground electrical and wired communications services with a lowresistance ground.
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- Select suppression products that have been tested and rated as complete units.

Structural lightning protection

□ Reduce the number of times the radio site and tower are struck by lightning by installing a static ground charge dissipation system.

By Bruce A. Kaiser

Looking for something to do during short, warm-weather nights? Try this summertime delight:

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Kaiser is president of Lightning Master, Clearwater, FL.

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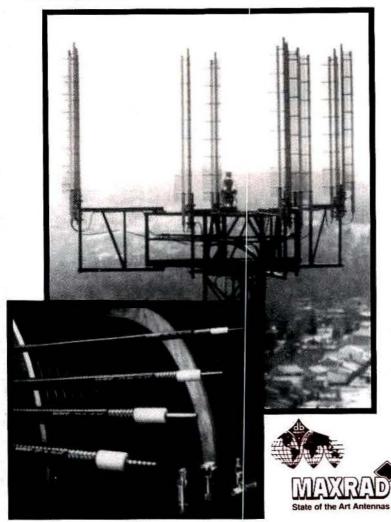


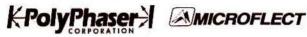


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refrigerator together so someone touching them both at the same time does not receive an electrical shock.

Bonding not only protects people, it protects equipment by eliminating stray current flow in power and data lines.

Once the masses are bonded, their common electrical potential must be matched to that of the ground. Once again, the primary reason is personal safety.

For example, grounding prevents someone who walks up to the equipment building and grasps the doorknob on the metal door from receiving a shock. The secondary reason is to protect the equipment from stray current

► Grounding design—The grounding system design is a function of soil conditions.

The tower should be grounded with a low-impedance system designed to carry electrical current from a light-

The grounding system design is a function of soil conditions.

ning strike away from the structure harmlessly.

The shelter should be grounded and surrounded by a buried counterpoise to protect workers and visitors from step potential across the site.

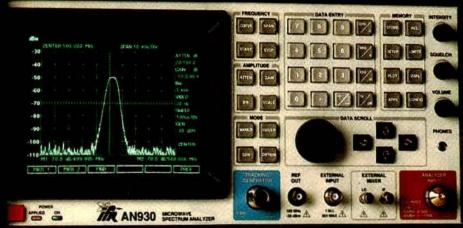
Step potential refers to a voltage gradient across a distance as the ground charge equalizes toward the lightning strike.

Electrical and wired communications services to the site should be provided a low-resistance ground, and all of these grounding subsystems should be tied together.

▶ Bonding design—The shelter bonding system should be designed so all equipment at the site connects with the grounding system at one and only one point.

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Clear Choice mission lines should be routed to the shelter so they can be bonded to a unified lead to ground. All equipment within the shelter should be bonded to a master bus bar, which then is bonded to the services ground.

Using this method ensures that there is no difference in electrical potential across equipment to cause damage and that the electrical potential of all site equipment rises and falls together when a surge current flows.

Surge suppression

All conductors leading into a site from the outside are a potential source of mischief.

Indeed, most of the damage commonly referred to as lightning damage actually is caused not by direct lightning strikes, but by electrical current surges entering the site on the various utility service lines. Surge suppression devices limit these electrical transients.

Several factors affect surge suppression.

One important consideration is the difference between lightning arrestor technology and transient voltage surge suppression technology.

Lightning arrestors provide protection by dumping the surge from the phase wire to the ground wire. The transient voltage travels on the ground wire back to the service entrance where the ground and neutral wires are bonded.

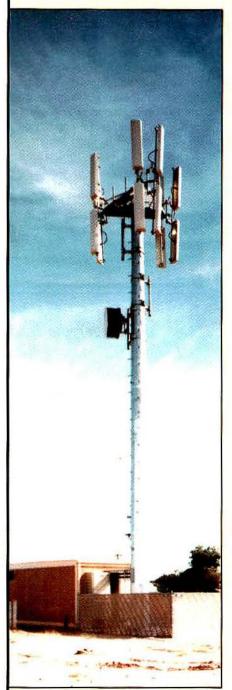
Then, traveling on the neutral wire, the voltage reflects back to the equipment the lightning arrestor is supposed to protect, causing a difference in potential between the phase and neutral wires.

Transient voltage surge suppression (TVSS) technology, on the other hand, provides protection from phase wire to ground wire to neutral wire to phase wire, limiting the difference in electrical potential among all wires in the system. This concept works with all types of power, telephone company and data lines.

High-capacity surge suppression devices sometimes are packaged in large cabinets. Therefore, they must be placed several feet from the device they are intended to protect.

They are connected to the device

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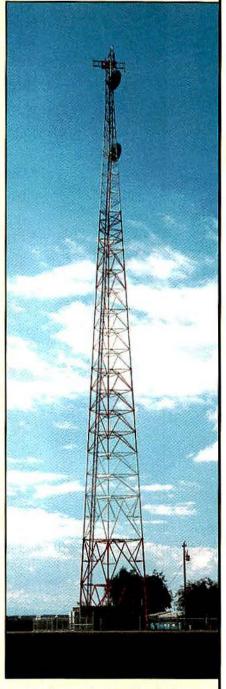


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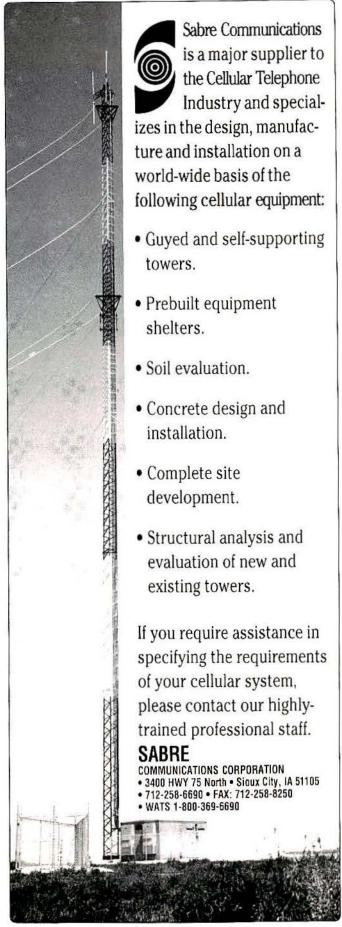
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with lead wires, the length of which can have a critical effect on the surge suppressor's performance.

For example, a 5-foot lead length can increase a 500V clamping value to 1,800V because of the wiring inductance. Plus, the longer the lead length, the slower the surge suppressor's response time. These changes are not caused by a surge suppressor defect; they are caused by lead length.

The answer is to look for highpower-density devices packaged in reasonably sized boxes that can be nippled directly to the device to be protected. In this way, leads can be limited to an ideal length, preferably less than 12 inches.

Staged protection is a surge suppres-

... the longer the lead length, the slower the surge suppressor's response time.

sion system design that many prefer.

Instead of relying on one big highrating device at the service entrance, staged protection uses additional devices downstream at distribution boxes and near the protected loads. This approach solves the problems of letthrough voltages and of surges induced electromagnetically into the house wiring inside of the primary surge suppressor.

Electric utility studies have shown that the vast majority of power transients seen by equipment do not come from the outside. Instead, they are generated within a facility.

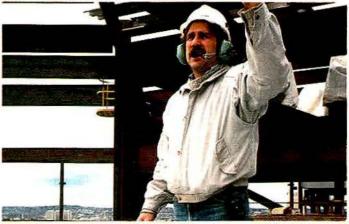
Whereas a large device at the service entrance cannot help with this problem, secondary devices on distribution panels can suppress a transient from one circuit, such as the air conditioning compressor, before it is redistributed onto other circuits, such as the radio circuits.

Be sure the suppression products have been tested and rated as complete units. If a device is tested at the raw,

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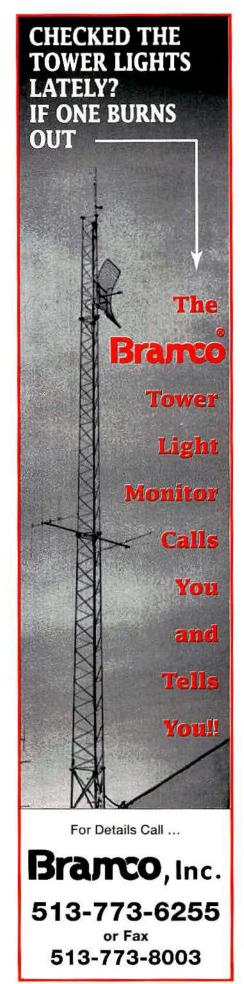
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unassembled values of its components, such factors as impedance stemming from circuit geometry are not considered. They can raise clamping values and lower reaction times considerably.

Structural lightning protection

Even with the best bonding and grounding system and with the best surge suppression devices in place, it helps to take steps to reduce the number of times the radio site and tower are struck by lightning.

Systems are available to reduce the accumulation of lightning-caused static ground charge on the facility. They interrupt the process that completes the lightning strike by retarding the formation of lightning-completing streamers in both height and time. At least one such system usually is described as a static ground charge dissipation system.

Several factors about a static dissipation system deserve consideration.

A structure's ground charge accu-

mulation streamer formation are predictable, according to the rules of point discharge phenomena. Does the system take advantage of the structure's natural charge accumulation and streamerproducing characteristics, therefore enhancing natural dissipation, or does the system require a separate structure

to support the dissipator?

Systems requiring a separate structure can be more costly and less efficient. The tower's purpose is to support revenue-producing radio communications antennas, not to support a lightning protection system. Any lightning protection system that imposes excess weight or wind loading on the tower causes unnecessary and counterproductive structural stress.

One of the best ways to evaluate a particular system is to discuss its performance with others who use it on facilities similar to yours. It seems as though everyone likes to talk about lightning and the methods for preventing lightning damage. Reputable manufacturers of structural lightning protection systems are happy to provide references.

Unified approach

Any lightning protection

system that imposes

excess weight or wind

loading on the tower

causes unnecessary and

counterproductive

structural stress.

What happens when a site operator installs the world's best bonding and grounding system and the world's best structural lightning protection system—but no surge suppression devices—and the utility pole in front of the site is struck by lightning?

Surge current comes in on the power or telephone lines and lets the smoke out of the electronic equipment inside the building.

Most technical people know that when an electronic device is manufactured, it is filled with smoke. In spite of the information in most sales brochures, the smoke actually makes the device work. When the electronic device fails, all of the smoke gets out, so it stops working. You can prove this

merely by looking at any device destroyed by lightning. All of the smoke has been let out, and the device no longer works.

What if the bonding system is connected to the grounding system at multiple points and I i g h t n i n g

strikes the woods near the site?

The step potential across the site lets smoke out of the equipment.

What if the structural lightning protection system is omitted and a direct lightning strike to the tower produces an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) that induces transients within the electronic equipment? Again, the smoke gets out.

Effective lightning protection is a 3-part approach that combines bonding and grounding, voltage surge suppression and structural lightning protection into a unified system designed to keep the manufacturer-installed smoke in all of your equipment.

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Inspection programs improve site management results

Radio communications companies that prosper in the future will be those making the best use of their assets. Use an appropriate inspection program to plan acquisitions, preventive maintenance and upgrades.

By Bruce A. Kaiser

What goes up must come down.

When it comes to a radio communications tower, we hope not!

To keep a tower standing and in sound condition requires knowing when it needs maintenance and repair. Unfortunately, many communications sites are "out of sight, out of mind."

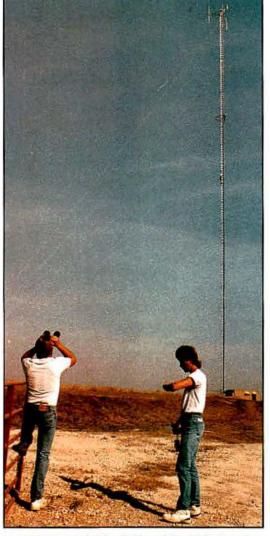
It is not unusual for smaller communications companies to pay attention to the site and its tower during construction and thereafter only when there is a problem.

The radio communications industry, including two-way radio, radiopaging and cellular mobile telephone, has been discovered by large companies that bring more sophisticated controls to operations and asset management. All companies, large and small, can apply these practices to communications sites.

Reliability and system performance are key factors in limiting churn, which refers to customers switching among service providers within the same market. Similarly, operators of private systems have a vested interest in sustaining their communications at all times.

Scheduled preventive maintenance

Kaiser is president of Comprehensive Tower Inspection, Clearwater, FL.



Inspectors Jay Cribbs (left) and David Bolton time the strobe lights on a cell-site tower near Paola, KS, to verify proper operation.

keeps sites in peak operating condition. Asset control requires an inventory of site equipment. These two programs are based on information about the

equipment's present condition and performance trends.

Site inspection acquires the necessary information for intelligent operating and maintenance decisions. There are five types of inspections:

► Post construction—Immediately after site construction is complete and before the contractor's final draw payment is released, the post construction inspection is performed.

Information gathered in this inspection allows the owner to determine whether everything that was ordered was delivered, was installed properly and is working.

This information includes the make, model and serial number of all site components. Testing includes confirmation of installation to the owner's specification and to industry accepted standards, and performance to manufacturer and system design specifications.

This inspection's primary objective is to identify discrepancies so they can be corrected before the contractor receives final payment. This procedure gives the contractor an incentive to correct discrepancies in a timely manner.

▶ Periodic—Once a site is operational, it is important to note the site components' condition and operation regularly.

The periodic inspection of the site reveals operational problems so they can be repaired. Information gathered during several such inspections reveals trends that may be reversed to

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prevent small problems from becoming big ones.

The periodic inspection's objective is to ensure that the site remains in acceptable condition.

Aggressive, responsible operators tend to see the need for periodic inspections out of self-interest, that is, to keep their systems up and running at peak performance.

Less responsible operators may not see a pressing need. Nevertheless, periodic inspection eventually may be forced upon them by the insurance industry in a way that is not in their best interest. It may become difficult or expensive to obtain insurance without a periodic site inspection program.

▶ Pre-purchase—Many radio communications businesses are growing by acquiring existing sites or systems.

Before acquiring a site, it is a good idea to know what equipment and facilities are at the site, their condition and operating performance. Believe it or not, sellers sometimes exaggerate their properties' condition.



Bolton photographs a tower side light for the inspection report and permanent record.

A site inspection can be a useful element in price negotiations. It can discover whether the site is acceptable and compatible with the rest of the buyer's system.

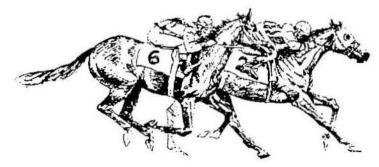
The primary objective of the prepurchase inspection is to ensure that the buyer knows what he is getting.

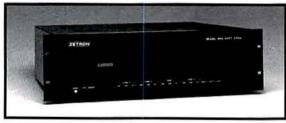
▶ Post-acquisition—In the event a number of sites are acquired without a pre-purchase inspection, a post-purchase inspection can be used to determine what was purchased.

Writing an inventory of site components is a large part of this inspection. Assessing the condition and performance of site equipment allows the operator to make immediate repairs and modifications. A program of preventive maintenance can be based on this assessment.

The primary objective of the postacquisition inspection is to ensure that the buyer knows what he bought and to make plans for upgrading the site as necessary to meet the buyer's requirements.

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➤ Specific problem resolution-As its name implies, the specific problem resolution inspection is designed to isolate the cause of a specific problem and to devise a solution.

The inspection

normally stems from a specific complaint or suspicion. If there is an unexplained or unexpected change in the site or its performance, a timely inspection using appropriate test equipment can provide the necessary information to resolve the problem.

The primary objective of the specific problem resolution inspection is to give the owner information to use in fixing a specific problem.

A clear, concise, detailed presentation of the site inventory, condition and performance as researched by an objective third party is the desired result

Inspection objectives

- □ Post construction—To identify discrepancies so they can be corrected before the contractor receives final payment.
- □ Periodic inspection—To ensure that the site remains in acceptable condition.
- □ Pre-purchase—To ensure that the buyer knows what he is getting.
- □ Post acquisition—To ensure that the buyer knows what he bought and to make plans for upgrading the site as necessary to meet the buyer's requirements.
- Specific problem resolution—To give the owner information to use in fixing a specific problem.

of a site inspection.

Four types of companies offer site inspections: tower companies, component manufacturers, project management companies and independent inspection companies.

All inspection companies are influenced by their background.

Will a company accustomed to building sites as the lowest bidder have the expertise to conduct the necessary testing and to provide a report at the expected level of sophistication?

Will a component manufacturer have the objectivity to find and report

possible shortcomings in products it may have manufactured?

Will a project management company have the objectivity to find and report possible shortcomings in systems it may have

designed or built?

Some tower companies perform inexpensive inspections in hopes of generating future work by finding discrepancies on the site or tower. A useful policy to protect against potential abuse is not to have any repair work done by the company that finds the problem, or not to have any work done at the time of the inspection-and make the policy known before the inspection.

Another potential problem arises when the post-construction inspection and report are done by the same com-

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pany that handled the construction. Many times, initial transmission line test results are posted at a site for future comparison. These tests were conducted by the transmission line and antenna installer.

Are these tests objective? Was highquality test equipment used?

When reading the inspection report, keep in mind the inspection company's background. A component manufacturer or installer has a negative incentive to identify problems, and a tower company has a positive incentive. Ideally, an objective third party would identify all problems because it has no stake in future work based on its finding.

No matter what type of company performs the inspection, several basic qualifications and attributes are important.

- (1) The company should be experienced in performing inspections on sites similar to yours.
- (2) Request references and check them.



Cribbs and Bolton check the large midpoint white strobe and red beacon lights and their mounting hardware.

- (3) The workers involved in all inspection and reporting steps should be qualified, experienced and competent.
- (4) The company should carry liability, vehicle and workers' compensation insurance appropriate for the type of work done and the state where it is done. If the company is not insured, any liability could revert to the site owner or operator. Request and obtain insurance certificates before work begins.
- (5) The inspection crew's equipment, such as transits and test sets, should be high-quality, calibrated equipment. Copies of the calibration certificates should be included in the inspection report. Test sets, particularly those used on transmission lines, should be of scientific quality.

Especially for a new installation, results furnished with the report should be highly accurate to provide a means of gauging system performance and to provide a benchmark for comparing future tests.

The test set operator should be com-



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petent and experienced with the specific make and model of set used. The best test set in the world is only as good as its operator.

This type of test set is not cheap. A scientific-quality set easily can cost \$70,000 with accessories. Request details about the test set and its operator's qualifications.

The inspection crew should have laptop computers and printers on site for accurate and timely report preparation. The crew should use detailed checklists to ensure a thorough job.

Each inspection should be summarized in a written report. Be sure the information is provided in a format useful for you, not necessarily in the inspection company's standard format. The format should be consistent among reports for easy crossreferencing and consistent over time for monitoring trends at each site.

Transmission line results should be available on computer disk (not cards or other unusable media) for trend monitoring.

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At a minimum, the report should cover the following:

- (1) General site information (including directions for driving to the site; latitude and longitude; FAA study number; general site layout, descriptions and conditions; and the testing methods used.)
- (2) Information on the tower structure and its condition, including an elevation showing all antennas and appurtenances and tower plumb.
- (3) Information on the tower aviation obstruction marking and lighting.
- (4) Transmission line information, including transmission line layout at the service entrance and on the tower, and all test results.

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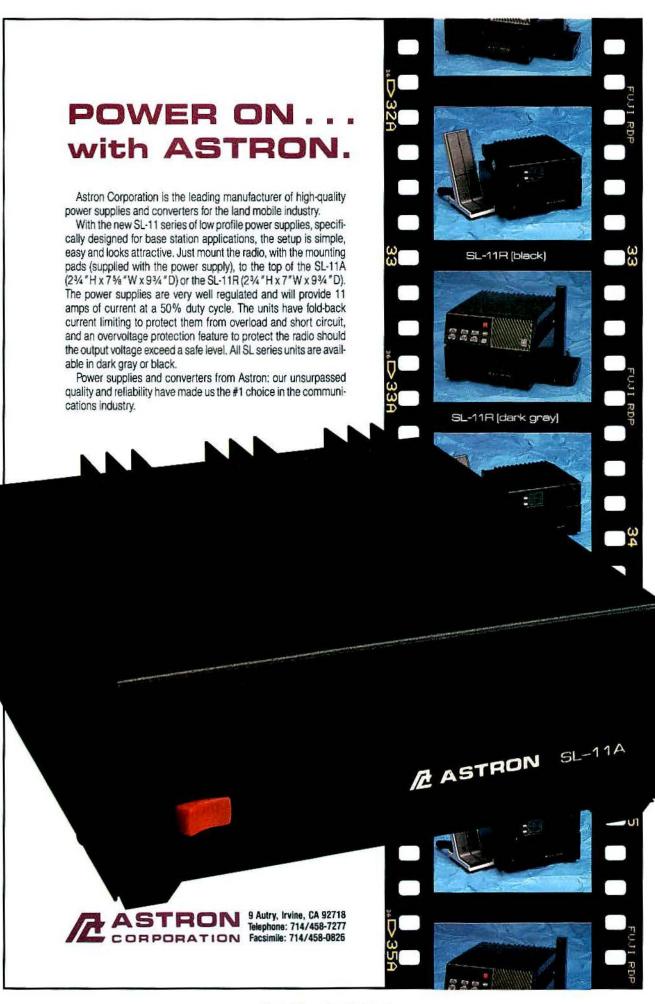
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- (5) Information on antennas and mounts, showing their location, elevation, make, model, serial number and condition.
- (6) Site and tower bonding and grounding for personal safety, equipment reliability and lightning protection.
- (7) Photographs of all site components and discrepancies.

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Circle (44) on Fast Fact Card

Adjusting deviation for FM microwave transmitters

Three formulas help technicians to deviate FM microwave transmitters using a variety of test equipment. Deviation can be set accurately without using manufacturers' step-by-step procedures.

By Jeff Ashley

Several basic formulas help technicians to set the frequency deviation for analog broadband FM microwave transmitters. This adjustment process is known as deviating or Besseling the transmitter.

Rather than being restricted by the manufacturer's step-by-step procedures, the technician can use the formulas to apply the principles behind the manufacturer's procedures. The same formu-

Ashley is a technician with the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department.

las, which may be used in various situations, allow flexibility with regard to test equipment requirements.

The Bessel functions that describe an FM signal are complex. Nevertheless, using Bessel functions to evaluate the relationship between carrier and sideband energy at different modulation (mod) indexes reveals that as the mod index increases from zero, an FM signal's carrier component periodically disappears.

Often referred to as a Bessel null or carrier drop-out, this carrier disappearance occurs at specific mod index values called eigenvalues, including 2.4, 5.5, 8.6, 11.8 and higher values.

Using eigenvalues makes it easy to define FM transmitter deviation levels accurately. For that reason, the mod index value of 2.4 (2.4048, to be more precise) that produces the first carrier drop-out is used in this article as a formula constant.

Before calculations are made, find out these three facts about the FM transmitter to be deviated:

- I. The test tone level for the radio's modulator/oscillator (mod/osc) baseband input.
- 2. The radio's peak per-channel deviation.
- 3. Whether or not pre-emphasis is used.

The procedure uses a spectrum analyzer and a tone generator with a 75Ω calibrated output. If the tone generator's output impedance is not 75Ω , bridge a selective level meter across the output to verify proper injection levels to the mod/osc as shown in Figure 1 to the

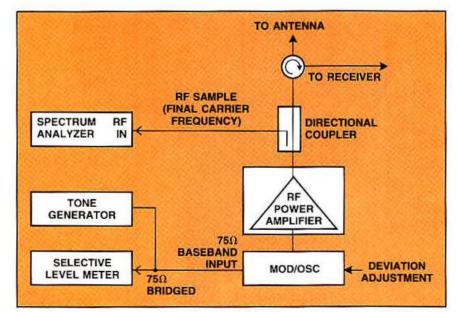


Figure 1. Use this test setup to find the test tone level for the radio's modulator/oscillator (mod/osc) baseband input; the radio's peak per-channel deviation; and whether or not pre-emphasis is used. The procedure uses a spectrum analyzer and a tone generator with a 75 Ω calibrated output. If the tone generator's output impedance is not 75 Ω , bridge a selective level meter across the output to verify proper injection levels to the mod/oscillator as shown.

Formula No. 1

The first formula is: Test tone frequency = peak per-channel deviation ÷ modulation index.

The objective is to set transmitter deviation accurately to a chosen perchannel deviation level.

This per-channel deviation value is entered into Formula No. 1 along with the mod index value of 2.4048. Then the test tone frequency may be calculated.

With test equipment set up as shown in Figure 1, when this specific test tone frequency is injected into the mod/osc, the spectrum analyzer displays the first carrier drop-out.

The first carrier drop-out occurs

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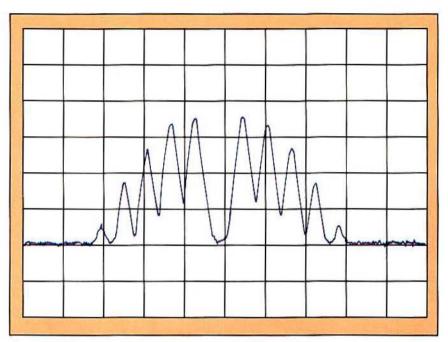


Figure 2. This is what first carrier drop-out looks like on the spectrum analyzer. Note that center carrier frequency energy drops to a null.

when the pre-defined per-channel deviation level is reached as the mod/osc deviation control is adjusted. The tone level must be set to the test tone level

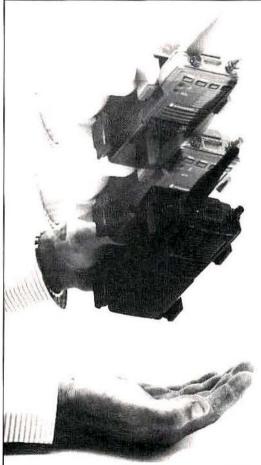
specified for that particular baseband input of the mod/osc.

For example, to deviate a 600-channel microwave radio with no pre-emphasis to 200kHz RMS per channel, first multiply the root mean square (RMS) value by 1.414 (the square root of 2) to find the *peak value* to enter into the formula. Because the mod index at the first carrier drop-out is 2.4048, the test tone frequency is calculated using Formula No. 1 as follows:

Test tone frequency

- $= (200,000 \text{Hz} \times 1.414) \div 2.4048$
- = 117.6 kHz

With the equipment connected as shown in Figure 1, set the tone generator to 117.6kHz at test tone level. Beginning from a fully counter-clockwise or minimum position, slowly adjust the mod/osc deviation control clockwise until first carrier drop-out is observed on the spectrum analyzer.



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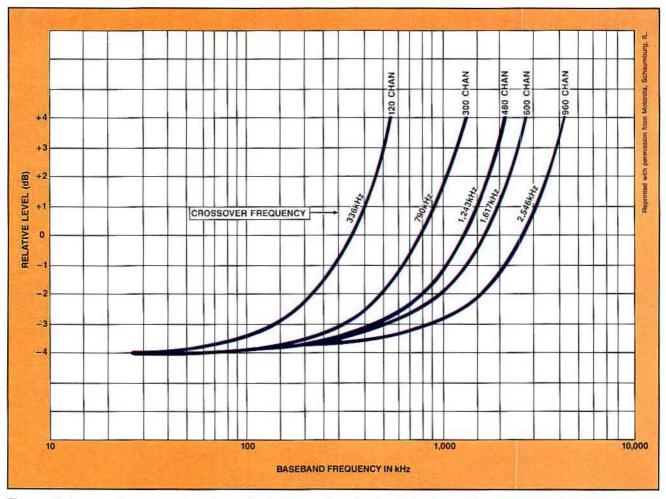


Figure 3. If the transmitter uses pre-emphasis, the tone generator output must be changed to compensate for the pre-emphasis curve's roll-off or boost at that particular frequency on that particular channel loading curve. For example, the frequency response characteristics of the 600-channel loading pre-emphasis curve at 117.6kHz have a roll-off of about 4dB.



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It is best to start with the deviation control at minimum because second, third, fourth and higher carrier dropouts also may be obtained. Starting with the deviation control at minimum helps to ensure the carrier drop-out observed during adjustment truly is the *first* carrier drop-out.

Figure 2 on page 52 shows what first carrier drop-out looks like on the spectrum analyzer. Note that center carrier frequency energy drops to a null.

With this adjustment, the transmitter is deviated properly for 200kHz RMS per channel. The advantage is that the procedure does not require the use of an equipment manual.

If the transmitter uses pre-emphasis, the tone generator output must be changed to compensate for the pre-emphasis curve's roll-off or boost at that particular frequency on that particular channel loading curve.

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For example, the frequency response characteristics of the 600-channel loading pre-emphasis curve at 117.6kHz will have a roll-off of about 4dB. (See Figure 3 on page 54.) This means the 117.6kHz tone must be injected into the mod/osc at a level 4dB higher than test tone level to compensate.

If the tone generator's maximum output frequency cannot reach the required 117.6kHz, use Formula No. 2.

Formula No. 2.

The second formula is: Change in level (dB) = $20\log_{10}$ (new tone frequency ÷ Formula No. 1 tone frequency).

Practically any tone generator frequency can be used, provided the tone injection level is altered by the amount calculated by Formula No. 2. Take care, however, not to exceed the mod/osc baseband input's maximum input level ratings.

Returning to the original objective of setting the non-pre-emphasized 600channel radio's per-channel deviation to 200kHz RMS, Formula No. 1 calculates the 117.6kHz test tone frequency, but what if the tone generator can operate no higher than 100kHz? Entering a new test tone frequency of 100kHz into Formula No. 2 gives the following equation:

Change (dB)

- $= 20\log_{10}(100,000$ Hz $\div 117,600$ Hz)
- = -1.408dB

This result means that if the tone generator's output is reduced to a level 1.408dB below test tone level, a 100kHz tone then can be used, and the results of the deviation adjustment procedure will be identical to results obtained with the 117.6kHz test tone frequency at test tone level.

. . . the spectrum analyzer can be connected to an RF monitor point ahead of a multiplier or multiplier chain . . .

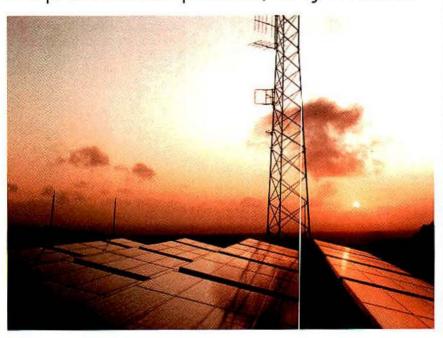
When the radio uses pre-emphasis, compensate for the pre-emphasis curve roll-off using the value indicated at 100kHz.

The curve in Figure 3 shows the compensation is virtually the same as before: 4dB. Therefore, the final 100kHz tone level into the mod/osc is: Test tone level - 1.4dB + 4dB = 2.6dB, meaning the 100kHz tone is set to a level 2.6dB higher than test tone level.

Often, the spectrum analyzer can be connected to an RF monitor point ahead of a multiplier or multiplier chain to monitor a frequency some fraction of the final carrier frequency. It may be necessary to use such a monitor point

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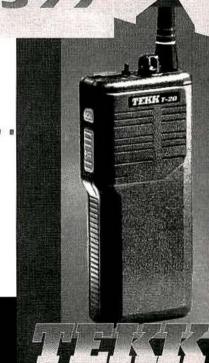
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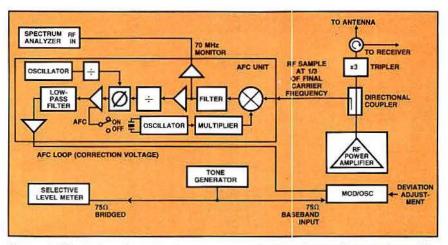


Figure 4. This test equipment setup uses a spectrum analyzer with a maximum frequency that needs to be only 70MHz to monitor RF at one-third of the final carrier frequency.

if the spectrum analyzer's maximum operating frequency is less than the radio's final carrier frequency.

For example, Figure 4 above shows a test equipment setup using a spectrum analyzer whose maximum frequency needs to be only 70MHz to monitor RF at one-third of the final carrier frequency.

The AFC unit in Figure 4 uses heterodyning to derive the 70MHz monitor frequency. Because the AFC unit uses this method, the per-channel deviation is the same at the mod/osc output and the 70MHz monitor point.

Nevertheless, the per-channel deviation at the 70MHz monitor point and at the mod/osc output is only one-third of the final carrier frequency deviation because the mod index changes through the multiplier stage.

Using the previous example of a non-pre-emphasized 600-channel radio with 200kHz RMS per-channel and test equipment connected as shown in Figure 4, Formula No. 1 is changed to read:

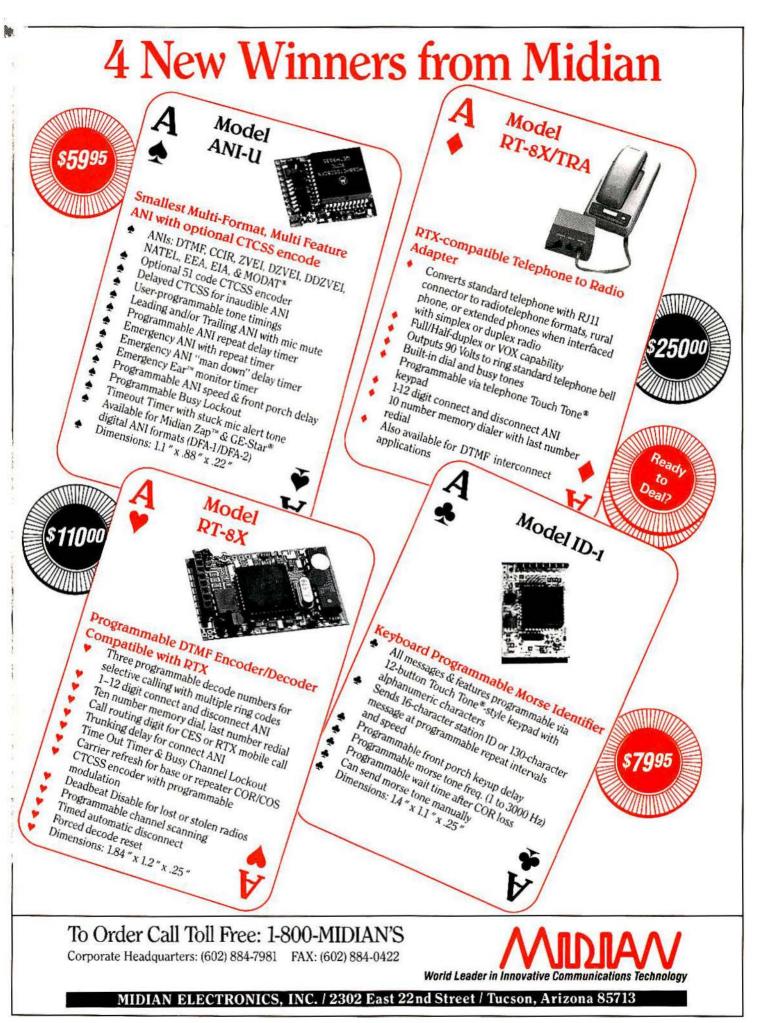
Test tone frequency

 $\frac{1}{3}$ × (200,000Hz × 1.414) 2.4048

= 39.2kHz

With a 39.2kHz test tone injected into the mod/osc at test tone level, the deviation control can be adjusted for first carrier drop-out while monitoring the AFC unit's 70MHz monitor point or the mod/osc output at one-third of the final





carrier frequency.

The original tone frequency of 117.6kHz also may be used if the injection level is increased by 9.6dB because:

Change in level (dB)

- $= 20\log_{10}(117,600 \div 39,200)$
- = 9.5 dB

If pre-emphasis is used, the tone level must be adjusted to compensate for the roll-off or boost at the new tone frequency.

Figure 4 shows that the AFC unit's 70MHz monitor point is ahead of the multiplier. Nonetheless, microwave radios often are designed with a 70MHz monitor point after any multiplier stages. With such a design, Formula No.

1 may be used with the full per-channel deviation value.

Many two-way radio communications service monitors have a built-in spectrum analyzer and a tone generator. With this configuration, one piece of equipment, the service monitor, can generate the test tone and view the first carrier drop-out at a 70MHz monitor point.

As a final example, consider how to set a transmitter to a different perchannel deviation. As a sample problem, how would you change a 24-channel, 40kHz RMS transmitter to operate at 48 channels and 26kHz RMS? Formula No. 3 provides the answer. Notice the similarity between Formula No. 3 and Formula No. 2.

Formula No. 3.

The third formula is: Change in level (dB) = $20\log_{10}$ (new per-channel deviation \div original per-channel deviation).

In this formula, it does not matter whether the per-channel deviation values are RMS or peak, as long as the numerator and denominator both are RMS or peak values.

If the transmitter previously was deviated properly for 40kHz RMS, the only necessary adjustment is to reduce the deviation control setting by 3.7dB to redeviate the transmitter for 26kHz RMS:

Change in level (dB)

 $= 20\log_{10}(26,000$ Hz $\div 40,000$ Hz)

= -3.74dB

These formulas are handy, and they help a technician to deviate any broadband or narrowband analog FM transmitter for any per-channel deviation over a wide range of tone frequencies and levels.

They offer the user more freedom by reducing dependence on equipment manuals. They also offer the user more flexibility by producing the same results with less expensive equipment that may be more readily available.

Reference

Kennedy, George, Electronic Communications Systems, Third Edition, McGraw-Hill, New York.

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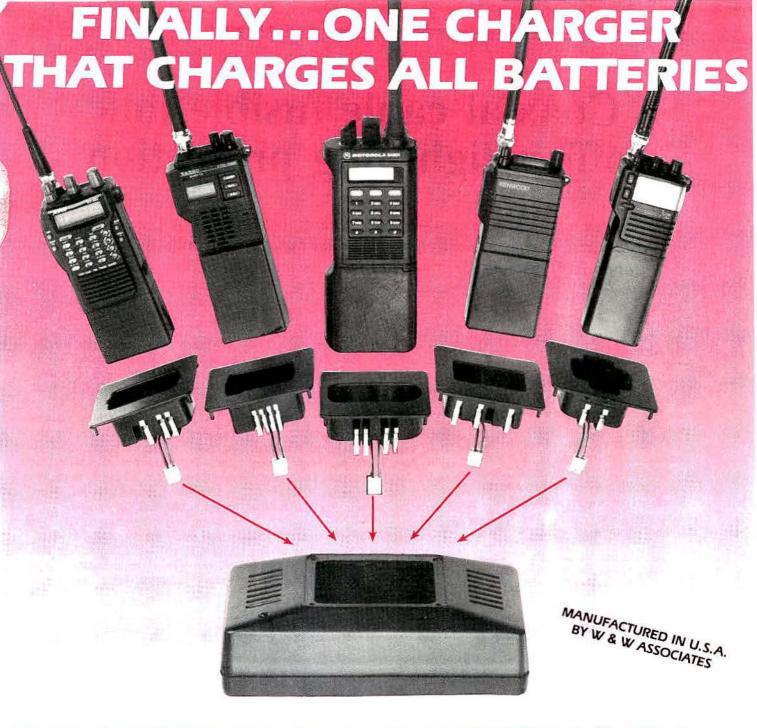
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Coaxial cable fusible link offers lightning protection

Although many radio communications systems include low-loss coaxial cable as a matter of course, small-diameter braided-shield cable may act as a fuse to prevent lightning surge currents from damaging electronic equipment.

By Richard Cartoscelli

Many times, the selection of an antenna system's coaxial cable is based on the need to minimize the amount of insertion loss.

Thus, a typical choice is a half-inch or larger diameter coaxial cable with a solid shield. Nevertheless, sometimes a small amount of signal loss is worth exchanging for additional lightning protection.

The photograph shows where a

Cartoscelli is a supervisory electronics technician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service in Nevada City, CA.

lightning surge current opened a connection between small-diameter, RG-58 coaxial cable and its UHF connector.

This cable was installed at a 5W VHF highband repeater located at about 8,500-feet elevation.

RG-58 cable is not double-shielded. and its loss is comparatively higher than for hardline cables. The antenna feedline length was about 25 feet from duplexer to antenna via a lightning

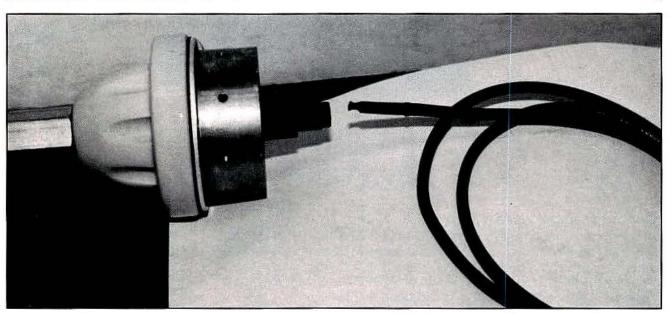
The site is fairly susceptible to lightning and receives an average of one direct strike every two or three years.

Notice that the RG-58 cable is fused open at the PL-259 connector.

When the lightning struck, the antenna was damaged beyond repair. Despite the antenna damage, neither the repeater nor the duplexer was damaged.

The replacement cost of the antenna and feedline (and, as a precaution, the lightning arrestor) is minimal, to say the least, compared to repairs that might have been necessary at the repeater, the duplexer or both, if the coaxial cable had not opened.

There may be specific applications where small coaxial cable can be installed to provide a fusible link that helps to prevent equipment damage when lightning strikes.



The gap shows where a lightning surge current opened a connection between small-diameter, RG-58 coaxial cable and its UHF connector. The feedline and the antenna it was connected to had to be replaced, but a repeater and duplexer served by the feedline were undamaged.



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Technically speaking

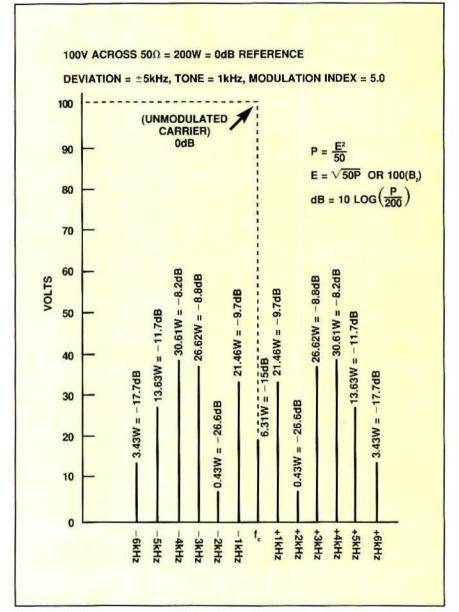


Figure 2. The frequency-modulated signal produced by the conditions depicted in Figure 1 produce the sideband spectrum shown above. Only the *significant* sidebands are included. Note that the carrier is down 15dB from its unmodulated level. If the deviation were $\approx \pm 5.5$ kHz with a 1kHz tone (to produce a modulation index [β] of 5.5), the carrier would null out com-

pletely and then rise again as the modulation index changes. This phenomenon can be used to calibrate deviation meters accurately by using a spectrum analyzer to locate the carrier null points. There are many values of modulation index (β) that will produce a carrier null (2.405, 5.52, 8.65, etc.).

(continued from page 8)

pairs at ±6kHz would be excluded from the received signal, causing distortion.

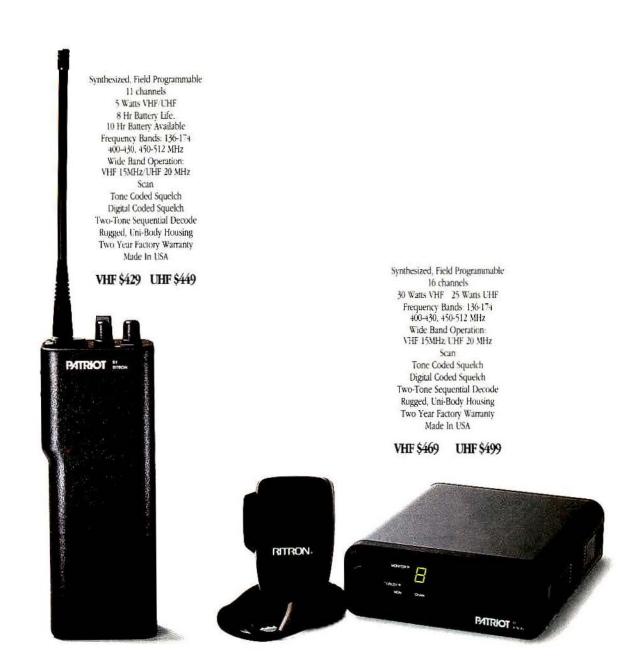
Notice in Figure 2 that the 0dB reference level is 100V. This represents a power level of:

 $100^2/50 = 200W$

The power level of the carrier and each sideband is derived by finding the appropriate Bessel function in Table I, then substituting into this formula:

$$P_{\rm S} = \frac{[E_{\rm C}(B_{\rm f})]^2}{50}$$

where



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Technically speaking

 P_S = sideband power in watts

E_C = the unmodulated carrier voltage

B_f = Bessel function

For example, to find the second sideband's power level, $f_C + 2f_M$, find the Bessel function B_f : it is .0466. Substituting into the equation:

$$P_S = \frac{[100(.0466)]^2}{50} = 0.43W$$

All of the individual sideband power levels (through $f_C \pm 6f_M$) have been calculated as shown above and are listed in Figure 2. The decibel figures are included.

When you look at this particular signal on a spectrum analyzer display, you will notice that the individual sidebands' relative amplitudes may appear to be incorrect. Nevertheless, keep in mind that on the spectrum analyzer display, the scale is calculated in linear decibel units, typically 10dB/division.

If you first establish the 0dB unmodulated carrier reference point, you then can use the decibel figures in Figure 2 to compare with the spectrum analyzer display.

For example, you will notice that the carrier (at 5kHz deviation with a 1,000Hz tone) will be 15dB down from the unmodulated carrier (0dB reference level). When you add the power level of all of the individual sidebands plus the carrier, the total is:

$$6.31 + 2(21.46) + 2(0.43) + 2(26.62)$$

+ $2(30.61) + 2(13.63) + 2(3.43)$
= 198.67W.

In terms of percentage of power, this figure represents:

$$P\% = 100 \left[\frac{198.67}{200} \right] = 99.33\%$$

where

Because this is greater than 98%, all of the *significant* sidebands are included. The important point to remember is that when the carrier is frequency-modulated, the FM spectrum's total power does not change, it simply is redistributed.

If you were to connect a *very* selective 5kHz-bandwidth filter centered at f_C between the transmitter producing the spectrum shown in Figure 1 and a wattmeter, the wattmeter would read only the *sum* of the powers in the carrier and the first two sideband pairs. This would be:

$$6.31 + 2(21.46) + 2(0.43) = 50.09W$$

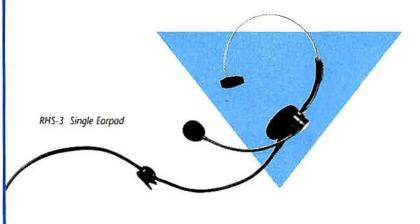
representing approximately 25% of the total spectrum power. If the modulation were removed, leaving only the carri-

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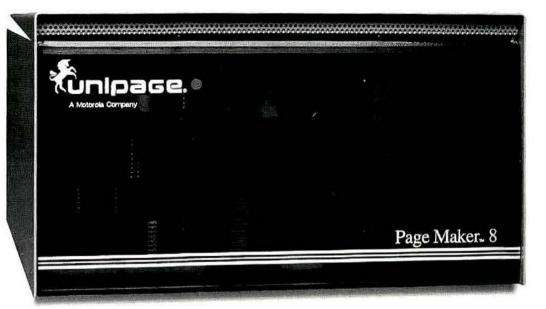




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Circle (61) on Fast Fact Card

Unipage, 1993

Technically speaking

er, the wattmeter then would indicate the full 200W.

Fortunately, the greatest power distribution from the speech waveform lies in the lower frequencies. For lower frequencies, the sidebands are spaced closer and thus, for a given modulation index, occupy less bandwidth.

The average modulation index of a typical complex speech waveform might be from 2 to 2.5. Compressed speech waveforms would produce a higher average modulation index than uncompressed speech waveforms.

The preceding discussion ties in directly with the measurement of the FM receiver's bandwidth. If the bandwidth is too narrow to pass the FM signal's significant sidebands, then serious signal quality degradation results. Two methods of measuring FM receiver bandpass response are described.

The term modulation acceptance bandwidth refers to the deviation level at which the signal is degraded by 6dB as referenced to the 12dB sinab sensitivity input level.

For example, if the 12dB SINAD sensitivity level is 0.25 µV, then the input signal level is increased by 6dB to 0.5 uV, and then the deviation is increased from 3kHz to a level that returns the SINAD meter reading to the 12dB SINAD level. This is the 6dB bandwidth of the receiver.

This procedure for checking the modulation acceptance bandwidth is described in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) publication IEEE Test Procedure for FREOUENCY-MODULATED MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVERS (IEEE Std. #184-1969) para. 4.1.1.1.3, p. 6. Typically, a properly operating receiver yields a test result of ±7.0kHz to ±7.5kHz modulation acceptance bandwidth.

Minimum usable bandwidth

The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) standard MINIMUM STAN-DARDS FOR LAND MOBILE COM-MUNICATION FM OR PM RECEIV-ERS, 25-947 MHz (EIA-204-C) para.

8.0, p. 11, describes a slightly different method of establishing the 6dB bandwidth.

As does the IEEE method, the EIA method uses the 12dB SINAD method of establishing the 6dB bandwidth. Moreover, the EIA method uses the 12dB SINAD signal input level as a reference (with a center-frequency signal).

The signal generator level then is increased by 6dB. Next the signal generator frequency is increased until the SINAD meter again indicates 12dB SINAD. The signal generator's frequency then is recorded.

Next, the signal generator's frequency is tuned below the center frequency until the SINAD meter again indicates 12dB SINAD. The signal generator frequency is recorded.

The frequency difference (Δf) between the center frequency (f_C) and the lower frequency (f1) and the difference between the upper frequency (fu) and the center frequency (f_C) are calculated. The smaller difference is the minimum usable bandwidth.

The EIA standard further states: "The minimum usable bandwidth shall not be less than one-half of the maximum specified receiver frequency stability in kHz (but at least 40% of the rated system deviation.)"

For a system deviation of ±5.0kHz, the minimum Δf should be no less than ±2.0kHz. Remember, the generator signal is being deviated at ±3.0kHz already, so that this deviation level has to be considered along with the frequency displacement (Δf).

The procedures described above are similar in principle but different in methodology. The modulation acceptance bandwidth test prescribed by the IEEE standard is easier to carry out on the workbench and is more commonly used by manufacturers in specifying receiver bandwidth and by technicians in running the test.

Both methods yield valid results, but the one you use should be dictated by the one used by the manufacturer in writing the specification sheet.

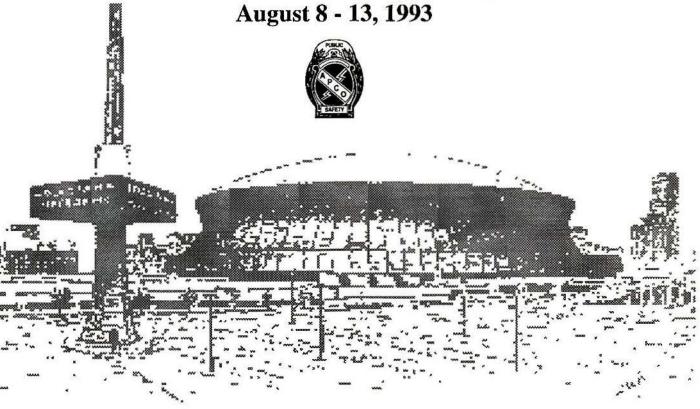
When receiver alignment and repairs are done, it should be standard practice to check the modulation acceptance bandwidth or minimum usable bandwidth, just as you would check the 12dB SINAD sensitivity.





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Database provides FCC tentative selectees

The National Association of Business and Educational Radio (NABER) and Interactive Systems (ISI) have joined to bring FCC information-based services and products to the land mobile communications market.

An enhanced database to help interested parties analyze the potential licensees and their market areas in the 220MHz-222MHz tomer service department at 703-812-8270.

band is available. The database provides name, address, phone number, FCC file number, and a variety of transmitter information such as coordinates, city, antenna height, ground elevation and ERP. To learn more about ISI's interactive access to FCC license databases, call the company's cus-



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American Mobile Radio Association organized to fight Part 88

A group of land mobile radio dealers, service shops and system users have organized the American Mobile Radio Association (AMRA), Washington, DC, to fight provisions in the FCC's Part 88 Refarming Proposed Rule Making, Former Ambassador Richard N. Holwill, executive director of AMRA, said "AMRA has been formed to press the FCC, the courts and the U.S. Congress to preserve the land mobile business in the 150MHz-512MHz spectrum."

Provisions of Part 88, as proposed, would limit applications for large SMR trunked systems to corporations with sales in excess of \$1 million and 10 repeaters in the same market area.

Holwill states, "Every radio in use today under Part 90, in the 150MHz-512MHz bands, will become obsolete in 1996. Tighter frequency stability standards will be imposed which probably cannot be retrofitted economically in existing equipment. Adjacent channel interference will render existing receivers unusable. Additionally, the power of every repeater or base station at higher altitudes will be cut to as little as 1W, limiting the coverage to an area too small to be useful."

AMRA has established an information line: 800-769-AMRA. The association's address and telephone number are P.O. Box 33847, Washington, DC 20033; 202-547-6545.

Trademark infringement suit filed against Fleet Call

Silke Communications, Eugene, OR, has filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against Fleet Call, Rutherford, NJ. The suit, filed in San Francisco's federal court, seeks all of the New Jersey company's profits under the "Fleet Call" trademark, an injunction against further use of the name and the destruction of all business and promotional documents and materials bearing the mark.

Silke has owned a federal registration of the trademark "Fleetcall" since 1980. Silke uses the mark in providing two-way mobile communications goods and services, including specialized mobile radio (SMR) systems, to customers. Silke's goods are sold nationwide, and its services are offered primarily in Oregon.

Fleet Call, formed in 1987, is the second largest SMR operator in the United States with accumulated licenses for approximately 1,557 channels at 800MHz and 460 channels at 900MHz.

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News

SCI installs paging packages to more than 47,000 pagers

Subscriber Computing (SCI), Irvine, CA, is installing Communications Resource Manager (CRM), an integrated paging management software system, for three clients in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. One client, Cook Telecom, San Rafael, CA, provides radiopaging and voice mail services in eight cities in California, Oregon and Joaquin Valley.

Washington. Another client, Pass Word, Spokane, WA, serves paging customers in central and eastern Washington and northern Idaho. The third client, Telepage Communications, Sacramento, provides cellular and voice mail services to Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay area and the San

Hewlett-Packard sponsors radio test workshops

Hewlett-Packard, Spokane, WA, will hold radio test workshops across the United States featuring the HP 8920A RF communications test set. The workshops include an overview of features and benefits; signaling encoding and decoding; using the spectrum analyzer and tracking generator; computer-aided cellular phone testing; and fully automated trunked radio measurements. Call 800-344-3802 for site information; 800-765-9200 to register.

Moducom supplies consoles for emergency communications

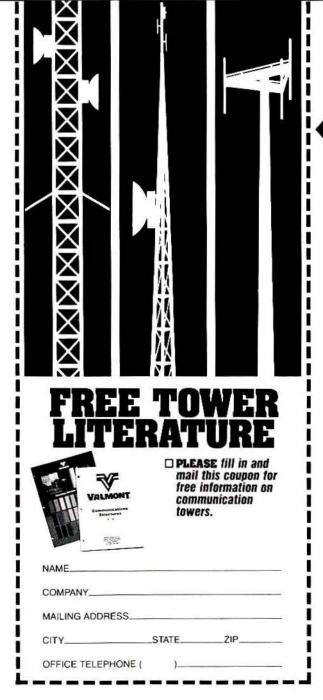
Modular Communications Systems (Moducom), North Hollywood, CA, is supplying its Ultra-Com PRO microprocessorbased communications control system to the Pueblo, CO, Emergency Operations System. The system is composed of 11 console positions.

Dataradio supplies modems for cable TV mobile data application

Dataradio, Atlanta, has entered into a value-added reselling (VAR) agreement to supply its vehicle information series (VIS) mobile data modems to Arrowsmith Technologies, Austin, TX, for integration into its Fleetcon-Cable system for cable television market. Fleetcon-Cable is a fleet management solution specifically designed for the cable television industry and is comprised of vehicle location and mobile data communication systems on a fault-tolerant network of dispatch and management workstations. Dataradio is providing the 24FS series mobile radio modem and base station data link controllers.

Paducah, KY, picks Motorola to supply trunked radio system

The city of Paducah, KY, has purchased an 800MHz Smartnet enhanced trunked radio communications system from Motorola Land Mobile Products. Schaumburg, IL. The FCC has awarded a license to the city of Paducah for six 800MHz frequencies, five of which will be fully trunked at the Paducah-McCraken County Communications Center, serving the police, fire and public works departments. The other one will be installed at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by Martin Marietta Energy Systems. The system is valued at more than \$1 million.



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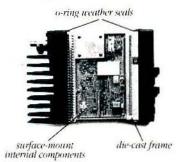
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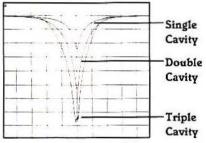
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News

IBM selects Racotek's data, voice communication services

IBM has selected Racotek's RacoNet wireless communication services as one of several that customers can use with IBM's TouchMobile system. TouchMobile is a rugged, wireless device that fits in one hand and allows mobile workers to collect and receive data electronically in the field.

Premier GPS signs on as NovAtel distributor

NovAtel Communications, Calgary, has signed a one-year, \$1 million distribution agreement with Premier GPS of Calgary, Alberta. The non-exclusive agreement is for low volume, worldwide distribution of NovAtel's GPSCard and GPSAntenna. Premier also will customize the products for its clients by developing integrated personal computer and communications links.

MobileComm, McCaw develop joint marketing project

MobileComm, Ridgeland, MS, has joined forces with McCaw Cellular Communications, Paging Division to sell pagers in retail outlets. MobileComm currently markets its PersonalPager in more than 10,000 retail outlets including Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, Service Merchandise, Pep Boys, Standard Brands, Lechmere, Hecht's Department Stores, Rich's Department Stores and Hi-Fi Buys, McCaw will bring an additional 16 of the top 100 markets to MobileComm's current retail program. The expansion of the PersonalPager retail division represents coverage to every major metropolitan area for MobileComm.

Project 25 proceeds to TIA

The Project 25 Steering Committee voted unanimously Jan. 15 to forward the Digital Radio Technical Standards Report to the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) for consideration as an interim standard.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers (APCO), the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD) and the federal government. The report was presented to Stuart Meyer, TIA-25 chairman, who will begin the formal process of circulating the proposed standards to manufacturing members of TIA for review, comments and official vote. The process is anticipated to take 2 to 3 months, and then the report will become an interim standard as further refinements are made.

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Circle (71) on Fast Fact Card

News

Motorola acquires minority interest in Racotek

Motorola, Schaumburg, IL, has exercised its option to acquire a minority option in Racotek, a Minneapolis-based wireless mobile data communication services company. Terms were not disclosed. Motorola decided to acquire the minority interest after Racotek successfully developed and tested a RacoNet mobile data communication service using Motorola's trunked radio interface. Racotek has moved immediately to the next testing stage using customers with the RacoNet service on Motorola systems in Boston and New Jersey.

Kustom Signals wins lawsuit

A federal district court in San Francisco has absolved Kustom Signals, Lenexa, KS, of liability in the first of 13 related product safety cases to reach trial naming Kustom as a defendant.

The complaint alleged that the company's police radar products caused cancer in an officer who used them. Nine other similar cases filed against Kustom during the past two years have been dismissed on the motions of the plaintiffs without settlements, and three other are pending.

Company president William Ruppert said that thousands of law enforcement officers had been needlessly alarmed by unfounded allegations of safety risks involving police radar products. "Neither Kustom nor any other police radar manufacturer involved in similar litigation has been found guilty of allegations related to the safety of their equipment," a statement issued by the company reads.

Pinpoint uses satellites, FM transmissions for GPS service

Magnavox Electronics Systems, Torrance, CA, and CUE Network, Irvine, CA, have developed a strategic alliance and developed Pinpoint, the first nationwide high-accuracy satellite positioning and location network. The service will permit a user to determine his geographic position within a few feet by using signals from U.S. navigational satellites and transmissions from local FM radio stations.

Following the initial introduction in Los Angeles, the service will be expanded to as many as 50 additional cities across the United States in 1993. On-air trials have already begun in Houston and New Orleans.





egulating technology

Keeping current about radio regulations that affect your business

By Alan S. Tilles, Esq.

During several meetings among smaller specialized mobile radio (SMR) system operators in markets where one or more large SMR system operators have applied for FCC rule waivers to build wide-area, digital systems, some of the smaller operators expressed several concerns, including the beliefs that:

- (1) The wide-area filing is anticompetitive.
- (2) Short-spacing, even if it is based on the most conservative standards, should not be permitted. (Short-spacing refers to placing SMR transmitters less than 70 miles apart [less than 105 miles in some areas] on co-channels. When authorized, short-spacing is based on an engineering calculation of potential interference.)
- (3) Short-spacing will mean that the existing operator will not be able to move a system even if necessitated, for example, by a lease expiration or a tower collapse.

Lack of awareness

Some of the smaller SMR system operators apparently have not kept abreast of the changing SMR environment.

For example, they were unaware of the FCC's decision regarding wide-area systems and short-spacing.

Some did not know that the National Association of Business and Educational Radio (NABER) had assembled a technical committee that already had proposed that short-spacing should be based on a 40dBµ/22dBµ desired/undesired signal overlap ratio criterion. The committee's proposal has gained acceptance as having met the SMR industry's and the FCC's need for a criterion.

Others did not know that NABER had successfully lobbied the commission to protect existing short-spaced operations, a lobbying effort that led to the adoption of FCC rule Section 90.621(b)(6).

Still others were not aware that the FCC did not consider the digital, wide-area applications that have been filed to date as having raised anti-competitive issues.

It seems that the lack of awareness primarily is because Fleet Call, the Rutherford, NJ-based multiple SMR operator that filed the first FCC applications for digital systems, did not file any applications in these particular smaller SMR system operators' markets. Therefore, these

Tilles, MRT's regulatory consultant, is a partner in the law firm of Meyer, Faller, Weisman and Rosenberg, P.C., Washington, DC.

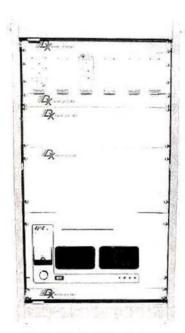
operators had not felt the need to become involved before the most recent round of application-filing among other multiple SMR operators.

How to stay informed

With the effects on the radio communications business that will be caused by new 220MHz band systems, personal communications services and spectrum refarming below 800MHz, mobile communications equipment dealers and system operators must pay more attention now than in the past to rapid industry developments.

Given the abundant press coverage, trade organization activities and industry conference seminars, there are many opportunities to keep current about wide-area

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Regulating technology

SMR issues and the mobile marketplace in

Mobile communications entrepreneurs should take the following steps to stay informed:

- ▶ Read industry publications. In addition to articles about the latest equipment, review the regulatory columns. They may contain some ideas to help you to expand and protect your business.
 - ▶ Join an industry trade association, if

you are not already a member. The information that you will receive on a regular basis is specifically targeted to your needs.

► Attend selected industry conferences. Although the International Mobile Communications Expo offers a good opportunity to see new products and to talk with distributors, the large number and variety of participants often makes getting up-to-date information difficult. On the other hand, trade association conferences

are narrowly focused and have a focused audience that permits extensive discussions with knowledgeable people. These discussions yield a tremendous "bang for the buck" that helps an operator to obtain information that may be vital to continued success.

Although some might argue that the expense of attending conferences is an obstacle, failing to attend the right conferences ultimately costs more in terms of an operator's ability to be "ahead of the curve," anticipating market developments and responding to trends.

For example, NABER held a one-day seminar in Dallas. A half-day was devoted to reviewing the current status of digital, wide-area SMR systems, and a half-day was devoted to the issue of spectrum refarming below 800MHz.

Participants learned how to protect their existing businesses, as well as what steps to take now to take part in future developments that may stem from digital SMR and spectrum refarming. Attendance was far

. . . trade association conferences are narrowly focused and have a focused audience that permits extensive discussions with knowledgeable people.

greater than anticipated, demonstrating a high level of interest in these topics.

Moreover, the most important aspect was the astounding level of positive response from the participants. Many of them asked for additional meetings on these subjects and suggested other topics they thought were worthy of similar treatment.

► Get involved. Every trade association needs member participation. If you cannot find time to serve on a committee or board, write well-crafted, thoughtful letters to your association(s) to let them know your position on critical issues. Then your comments can be considered when decisions are made by the associations' various boards and councils.

Following these steps will help you to place your business on a firm, stable economic footing and to provide a springboard for growth.



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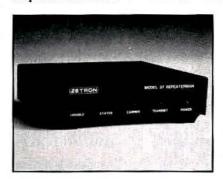
Of all the new products and services in the August 1992 issue, the ones reprinted here generated the most reader requests for additional information. If you missed them the first time, here is your opportunity to acquire more information on them: Just circle the corresponding Fast Fact Card number on the card found in the back of this issue and mail the card to

Watch features paging capabilities

A combination watch/pager called a Piepser contains the smallest paging device made. The Piepser has four distinct tones activated by specified telephone numbers to alert the wearer and allow for instant caller identification. The Swatch and MobileComm watch/pager can be switched off when the wearer does not want to be contacted and switched into a silent mode when necessary. When in silent mode, the Piepser stores incoming signals for later retrieval.

Circle (501) on Fast Fact Card

Repeater controller accommodates 1 or 2 user groups



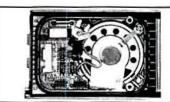
Model 37 Repeaterman from Zetron works with radio systems having one or two separate user groups. The repeater controller can encode and decode two user-selectable CTCSS tones. It includes remote DTMF programming, cross-tone encoding, Morse code ID, programmable courtesy beep and low standby current drain. The unit may be used for establishing an emergency repeater out of mobile radios.

Circle (500) on Fast Fact Card

Voice encryption module provides 4 user-selectable codekeys

The ST-26 Mobilecall voice encryption module from Selectone fits the Radius P200 and Motorola HT600 radios. The module has more than 4 billion available codekeys and four user-selectable codekeys for use with as many as four different groups on the same RF channel.

Circle (502) on Fast Fact Card



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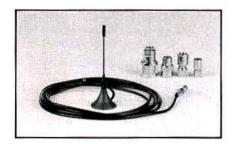
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New products

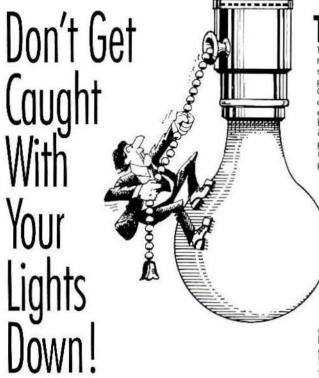
Micro-magnetic antenna fits in compact places



The Allgon "Kiss" Micro Mag antenna

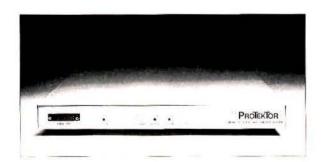
Circle (400) on Fast Fact Card

measures 3,375 inches with a one-inch base diameter. It can be stored easily in a bag phone case, glove compartment or coat pocket. The quarterwave version is broadband with a frequency range of 806MHz-960MHz. A 3dB collinear version is also available from Allgon Mobile. A variety of screw-on connectors is available.



Protect Your Tower with

The ProTekTor Monitor, Alert, and Control System



Circle (78) on Fast Fact Card

he ProTekTor is designed to remotely monitor your tower lights to FAA and FCC requirements. The ProTekTor can monitor all types of tower lights including steady burning, flashing and photocell-controlled. Tower Light Controllers with built-in alarm outputs are interfaced directly, and those without alarm capability are easily monitored by installing current sensors in the power leads to the lights. The ProTekTor will alert you to all problems by immediately colling a

pager, a computer, and/or a person (up to 4 different phone numbers can be called). The ProTekTor can provide a hard copy report to verify proper operation of itself and the telephone line

The ProTekTor has additional inputs for monitoring other vital site conditions such as AC power, intrusion, temperature, etc., and its relay driver outputs can be used to automatically or manually control back-up (or other external) equipment. The ProTekTor also has an extensive Event History Log which provides a detailed time date stamped record of all problems and actions taken on any equipment being monitored. Best of all, The ProTekTor is under \$1,000!

Our original products, the ProTek 24 and ProTek ir are larger and more advanced for those sites that require more extensive monitoring capability, as well as the ability to monitor RF power. For more in-formation on our ProTek family of Monitor, Alert, and Control Systems, call us at:

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Mounts allow lockable tilt, ballbearing swivel

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vice. The SDI 7001 allows interface with the 5000HD product series.

Circle (401) on Fast Fact Card

Adapter connects

Kenwood radios to test instruments

The RFB-1145 connects Kenwood radio models TK-230, TK-240, TK-330 and TK-340 directly to test instruments for service. For the radio user, the adapter allows immediate connection to the external mobile antenna, providing additional antenna gain and system range. The RFB-1145 from RF **Industries** is equivalent to the Kenwood part #E040-0236-25.

Circle (402) on Fast Fact Card

Distributor offers Schlumberger service monitors

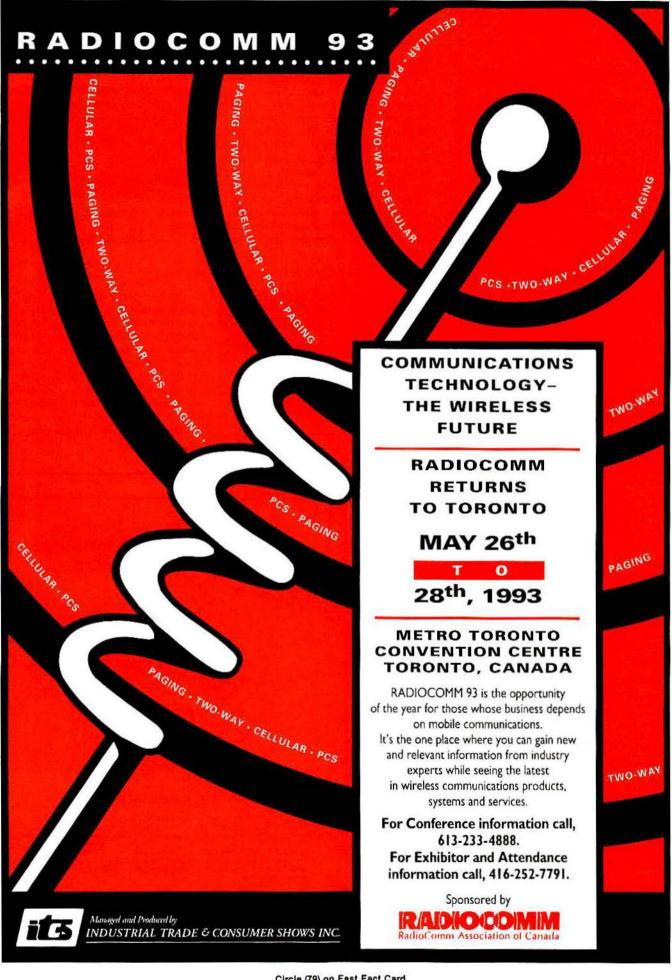
Tessco has become the wireless industry's exclusive supplier of Schlumberger communications service monitors, including the Stabilock 4031. Model 4031 incorporates 24 separate instruments into one self-contained service monitor. The monitor simplifies installation and testing of cellular base stations. Model 4015 puts "high tech" abilities in the reach of smaller shops with tighter budgets.

Circle (403) on Fast Fact Card

Mobile dispatch unit allows reprogramming from vehicle

The 7502 mobile dispatch unit is a compact (3" x 5" x 1.75") encoder, decoder and transponder that allows a dispatcher to control a mobile radio fleet. The unit from Zetron features standard DTMF signaling, compatibility with other radios and fieldprogrammability. Dispatchers can call a selected vehicle, specific groups or the entire fleet quickly. To assure that the call was received, model 7502 in the vehicle transponds back to the dispatcher with an audible tone or ANI code. Reprogramming is possible without removing the unit from the vehicle by using the front-panel keys or DTMF commands.

Circle (404) on Fast Fact Card



AVCOM's New PSA-65A Portable Spectrum Analyzer

The newest in the line of rugged spectrum analyzers from AVCOM offers amazing performance for only \$2,855.

AVCOM'S new PSA-65A is the first low

cost general purpose portable spectrum analyzer that's loaded with features. It's small, accurate, battery operated, has a wide frequency coverage - a must for every technician's bench. Great for field

The PSA-65A covers frequencies thru The PSA-65A covers frequencies thru 1000 MHz in one sweep with a sensitivity greater than – 95dBm at narrow spans. The PSA-65A is ideally suited for 2-way radio, cellular, cable, LAN, surveillance, educational, production and R&D work. Options include frequency extenders to enable the PSA-65A to be used at SAT-COM and higher frequencies, audio demod for monitoring, log periodic antennas, 10KHz filter for .2 MHz/DIV range, carrying case (AVSAC), and more. For more information, write, FAX or phone.

phone.



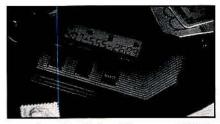
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Circle (88) on Fast Fact Card

New products

Credit card-size pager boasts 12-digit numeric display

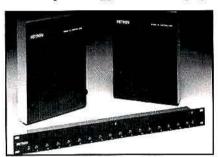
The Confidant numeric pager from Motorola is only 1/4-inch thick, 2 inches wide and 31/4 inches long—the size of a standard credit card. The unit has a 12digit numeric backlit readout for displaying phone numbers. It can retain as many as eight messages in memory, even when turned off or while the batteries are being changed. The Confidant also can act as a watch with its time features and will time stamp each message. Unless in the silent mode, a musical alert indicates message



reception. Reminder chirps sound if the message is not acknowledged.

Circle (405) on Fast Fact Card

Control panel toggles remote equipment



The 1801 status and control panel is a switch panel that is used to toggle, as well as indicate, the status of remote equipment. Each of the 16 front-panel toggle switches can be connected to a motor, pump or other device to turn the device on or off. Each of the 16 LEDs can be connected to a flow, power or other sensor to indicate the status of the remotely located sensor. The unit from Zetron comes in a standard, 19-inch rack-mount casing.

Circle (406) on Fast Fact Card

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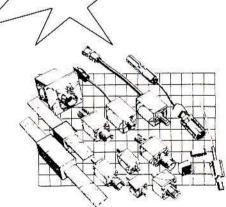


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Controller operates four mobiles with one control head

The Multi-User Controller operates four Syn-Tech II mobiles from a single control head. The mobiles can be any mix of models and frequency bands as long as the microprocessor software matches. The controller from Midland consists of an interface box and small remote control head that gives the user push button selection and LED indication of the mobile under direct control.

Circle (407) on Fast Fact Card

Container protects radio equipment from water

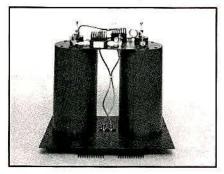
Two-way radio communications applications where the user and equipment might get wet or even submerged can be protected by TEA's Davies OSK-1, a soft plastic, belt-mounted container that ac-



commodates most radio brands and types with the antennas attached. A waterproof zipper provides access for the radio and allows the user to adjust channel, volume and other radio controls easily. A main cable junction box breaks out separate cables for the headset and PTT switch.

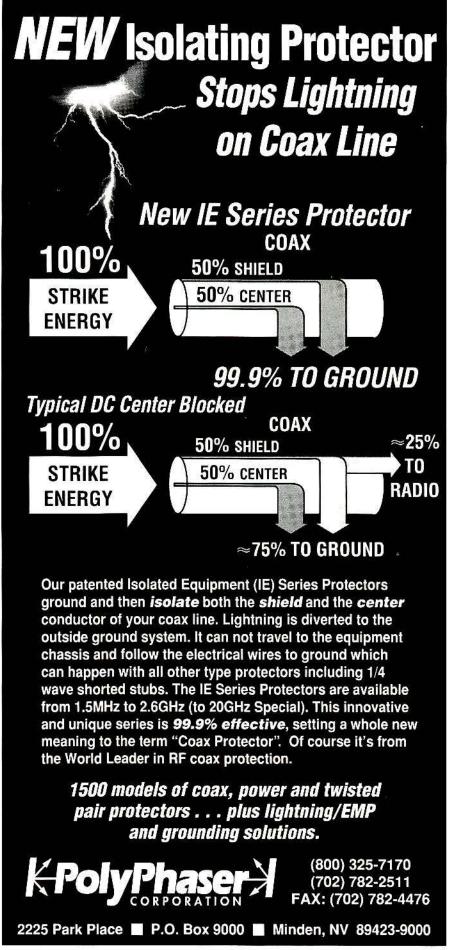
Circle (408) on Fast Fact Card

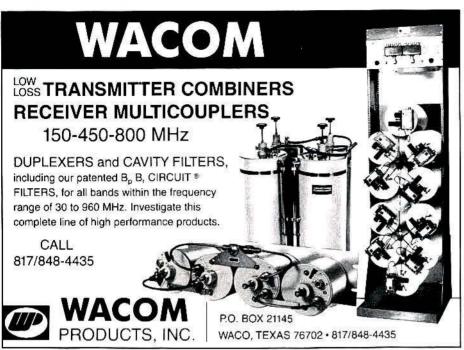
Paging combiner covers 928MHz-960MHz range



The SP9715 two-channel high-power paging combiner combines two transmitters as closely spaced as 500KHz, provides 50dB isolation and handles as much as 300W continuous input power per channel. VSWR at any port is 1.2:1, and return loss is 20dB minimum. The combiner from Decibel Products is for the 928MHz-960MHz frequency range.

Circle (409) on Fast Fact Card





Circle (92) on Fast Fact Card

New products

Expansion package allows gradual growth for paging terminal

The GL3000EX expansion package from Glenayre allows owners to gradually expand their systems. The expansion shelf is identical to the GL3000ES except for the blackplane and rear door. As many as three of the expansion



shelves may be added below the GL3000ES. The first expansion shelf allows growth to 10 universal slots, 14 voice storage boards (VSBs), and 4 x 120 Mbyte disk drives. The second expansion shelf allows growth to 16 universal slots, 24 VSBs and 6 x 120 Mbyte disk drives. The third expansion shelf will allow growth to 22 universal slots, 34 VSBs, 6 x 120 Mbyte disk drives and 50,000 subscribers.

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Circle (94) on Fast Fact Card

Mobiles offer full-duplex capabilities



The Syn-Tech II two-way mobile radios offer full-duplex capability, programmable CTCSS/DCS encode and decode with carrier-operated relay and provision for a bottom-mounted internal duplexer. The mobiles from Midland are programmable for as many as 320 channels in 16 groups. VHF frequency range is 136MHz-160MHz or 150MHz-174MHz; RF power is adjustable from 20W-40W. The UHF frequency range is 406MHz-430MHz or 450MHz-470MHz; RF output is 15W-30W. The radios are available in field-convertible under-dash and remote-mount configurations with a choice of control, head, control panel layout and either standard red LED or deluxe alphanumeric LCD displays.

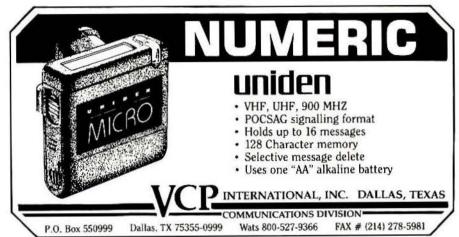
Circle (411) on Fast Fact Card

Compact status reporter features DTMF, nine status indicators

Model 1012C DTMF status reporter from Pyramid Communications features nine status indications, auto acknowledge and retry, auto-interrogate, selective and group call, horn honk, ANI on PTT and over-the-air console assignment. The unit measures 51/4" x 41/4" x 11/4" and is frontpanel programmable. Other features include a built-in test mode and a sealed membrane keypad.

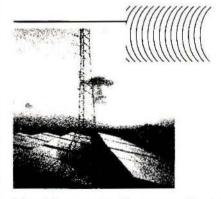


Circle (412) on Fast Fact Card



Circle (87) on Fast Fact Card

SIEMENS



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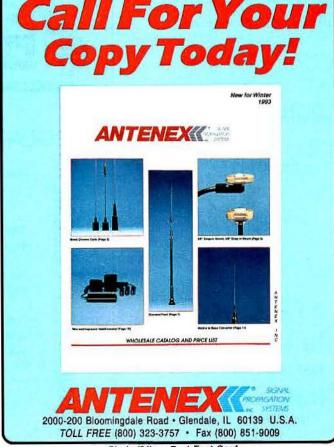
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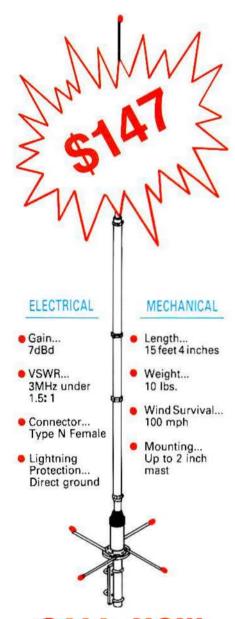
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Circle (81) on Fast Fact Card



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Circle (82) on Fast Fact Card

New products

Paging interface reduces keyboard entry

The alarm paging interface (API) allows inexpensive digital dialers to automatically send text messages to alphanumeric pagers. The API from **Telemessaging Devices** simplifies the alphanumeric paging process

by eliminating or reducing the need for keyboard entry devices and operators by automatically sending critical text messages.

Circle (413) on Fast Fact Card

Software aids in radio tuning

The Radio Spectrum Explorer for Windows by Advanced Computer Controls is a user interface for the VHF and UHF communications receiver. The program enables the user to explore the radio spectrum, tuning the radio in terms of what the user wants to hear, rather than frequency, making it easy to discover and monitor the wide range of signals present in the area.

Circle (414) on Fast Fact Card

Paging antennas offer 9dBd, 10dBd gain

The DB809K-YP and DB810K-YP 928MHz-932MHz paging antennas offer 9dBd or 10dBd gain. The rugged antennas resist winds to 150mph and 0.5 inch of icing. The **Decibel** antennas use the company's center-fed transposed tube design to provide a VSWR of 1.2 to 1 or better.

Circle (415) on Fast Fact Card

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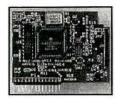
Adapter suits 600, 800 or 900 series Oki cellular telephone

The E2-250 test interface adapter from E2 is designed to facilitate automated testing of Oki cellular telephones. The product provides access to Oki's proprietary synchronous interface through a standard RS-232-C serial interface port. The E2-250 can be used with a PC, serial data terminal or suitable communications test set to communicate with any 600, 800 or 900 series Oki cellular telephone.

Circle (416) on Fast Fact Card

Module converts radios into trunking radiotelephones

The RTX 7510 mobile control module from Radio Telephone Exchange converts conventional Maxon two-way mobile



radios into an RTX trunking radiotelephone system. The RTX 7510-enabled Maxon mobile connects with a RTX 6000 repeater controller, which serves as the wireless link to the central office and between the various extensions. Features include broad system flexibility, including mobile-to-telephone, telephone-to-mobile and mobile-to-mobile operation for individual and group calling, and telephoneto-pager and mobile-to-pager service for as many as 1,000 mobile telephone users and 1,000 pagers.

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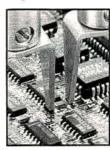
Lightweight shelters travel on collapsible trailer

Lightweight aluminum communications equipment shelters may be transported by land during emergencies and after natural disasters more easily and quickly than other shelter types. Made by Mobile International, the Containervan is built to be transported by land on a specially designed collapsible trailer. The shelters are available in 20-foot and 40-foot models.

Circle (417) on Fast Fact Card

Handpiece offers 'hot-bar,' connector removal tips

The TT-65 ThermoTweez handpiece from Pace has "hotbar" tips for removing various surface mount components. The tips contact lengths range from 0.03" to



2.0". The "hot-bar" tips provide directcontact thermal transfer to all of the solder joints on various two-sided surface mount components, including chip components, SOTs, SOICs, SOJs, SIMMs and connectors. The tweezing action of the handpiece allows for easy, one-handed removal from the circuit board.

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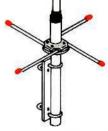


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Brochure illustrates fume extraction systems

The Arm-Evac fume extraction brochure covers a variety of fume extraction systems to remove hazardous fumes from solder operations and other electronic assembly processes. The brochure from Pace explains the benefits of local exhaust by removing harmful particulates and gases before they reach the worker's breathing zone.

Circle (351) on Fast Fact Card

Application note covers VSWR measurement

A 6-page application note titled "Compensate Coaxial Cable Effects When Measuring VSWR" is available from Direct Conversion Technique. It describes how the transmission line affects the measurement of VSWR in all antenna systems and how the test engineer may improve antenna measurement accuracy by compensating for these cable effects.

Circle (352) on Fast Fact Card

Brochure lists tone signaling products

The 40th anniversary brochure from Bramco lists products for tone signaling and remote control. Products include automatic number identification (ANI), DTMF tone signaling, remote control, tone sequential, reeds and filters for Motorola pagers.

Circle (353) on Fast Fact Card

Catalog features base station antennas

More than 1,000 items are featured in Cartwright Communications' base station antenna and cable catalog. The catalog contains technical specifications defining electrical and mechanical characteristics of each product and includes hundreds of charts, graphs and photos. Antennas are grouped by frequency; cables are grouped by size.

Circle (354) on Fast Fact Card

Brochure shows submersible headsets

Literature from Television Equipment Associates describes its range of submersible headsets and radio containers for waterproof communications. Police, firemen and special forces report success when using radios near, on or under water.

Circle (355) on Fast Fact Card





Public safety communications

Readers were asked in the September 1992 "What Do You Think?" questionnaire about public safety communications, product features, challenges and trends. The following charts indicate features readers look for in communications products (multiple responses add up to more than 100%):

Communications consoles features

| Easy to use | 73.3% |
|---|-------|
| Crosspatch capability | 56.7% |
| Surge protection | 53.3% |
| User programmable | 50.0% |
| Mic with PTT | 43.3% |
| Multiformat paging/signaling capability | 43.3% |
| 12/24-hour clock | 36.7% |
| Ergonomic design | 30.0% |
| Hands-free operation | 30.0% |
| Other | 20.0% |

Headsets features

| Lightweight | 86.7% |
|---|-------|
| Movable boom mic | 60.0% |
| Single-ear muff | 43.3% |
| Adjustable Vox delay/mic sensitivity levels | 36.7% |
| Built-in Vox | 36.7% |
| Ear mic | 33.3% |
| Vox override with locking PTT | 26.7% |
| Double-ear muff | 23.3% |
| Throat mic | 6.7% |
| Other | 13.3% |

Cases features

| Belt loop with swivel mount | 70.0% |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Leather material | 50.0% |
| Keypad access hole | 30.0% |
| Soft vinyl material | 26.7% |
| Shoulder strap | 16.7% |
| Other | 16.7% |

Logging recorders features

| Date/time stamping | 66.7% |
|------------------------|-------|
| Auto search capability | 63.3% |
| Fail safe system | 56.7% |
| Instant data retrieval | 53.3% |
| Digital storage drives | 40.0% |
| Internal power supply | 40.0% |
| High security | 30.0% |
| Other | 16.7% |
| | |

Challenges faced by readers in public safety communications include:

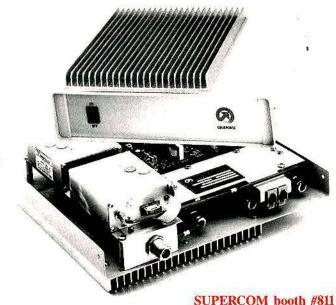
- "Access to dependable communications equipment."
- · "Direct communications access to other jurisdictions."
- · "Ease of operations, security, flexibility."
- · "Inter-agency coordination."
- · "Meet increased demand for radio communications with limited frequency spectrum."

Design trends in transceivers that readers would like to see in public safety applications include:

- · "AVL on portables. Trunked alphanumeric tone and voice pager."
 - "Easy-to-read alphanumeric displays."
 - · "Long battery life and ease of use."
 - · "Smaller size, more wattage and more rugged."



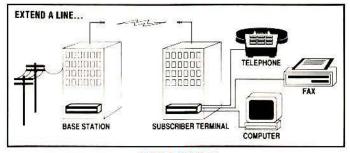
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Changes at Glenayre Electronics, Charlotte, NC:

Dave Hetzler, director of Quincy Support Operations, moves up to vice president of Glenayre Care, the company's customer

Ken Thompson, vice president of marketing, advances to vice president of worldwide marketing.

Steve Hannah, director of RF product management, moves up to director of U.S. technical support services.

Steve Lubahn, director of international RF product marketing, advances to manager of RF product management.

Changes at Glenavre Electronics, Vancouver, British Columbia:

Don Gayton, director of systems development, advances to vice president of engineering.

Rob Marchetto, a member of the digital signal processing group, moves up to director of advanced development.

Kurt Zoeller exits as manager of distributor sales for Fujitsu Imaging Systems of America in Danbury, CT, to join Glenavre Electronics as regional sales manager in Danbury,

Joe Vaughan departs Johnson Radio Communications, Minneapolis, as a sales and marketing representative to join Telex as its domestic sales manager for land mobile radio products.

Mark Louison departs NYNEX Mobile Communications, New York, as vice president and general manager to join AccessLine Technologies, Bellevue, WA, as senior vice president of operations. ጫ



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etters to the editor

Trunking systems:

After reading Rand Ellis' December 1992 letter concerning trunking system dangers, I felt that some potential trunking system user-agencies may forgo the advantages of trunking for fear of the dangers expressed.

The issue the letter expresses is true. Nonetheless, complex communications systems such as public safety trunking systems cannot be managed as the simpler conventional systems have been managed in the past. The issue the letter raises is one of management, not equipment or systems

The public safety trunking concept is centralized command, control and management, whereas conventional systems rely upon user control and management. The letter correctly states: "On a conventional radio channel, you (the user) know who is on the channel and how busy it is on a daily basis,"

On public safety trunked systems, astute managers know exactly who is using which talk group and when, and exactly how much airtime each user and group of users consumes. In addition, exact statistics are provided on all use, including the exact extent of blockage and delay times and busy-hour resource use.

An astute manager, armed with these statistics, can be much more effective than a user who only has a perception of channel congestion. This well-versed manager certainly will have more influence upon the powers of purchasing and the budgeting process than the daily user.

The letter further reads that a heavily loaded system cannot survive (operationally) a large-scale emergency. This statement may be true if the system is not adequately managed.

As the editor's note indicates, prior articles written by Dr. Gregory M. Stone and David N. Gelyana introduced this problem and provided the planning and management concepts necessary to ensure that a trunking system survives large-scale emergencies. Conventional systems, totally lacking centralized command and control over the users, do not survive large-scale emergencies as well as fine-tuned, wellmanaged trunked systems.

The letter's concluding statement that . . . a trunking system does not generate user complaints that previously have helped to justify system expansion" is true.

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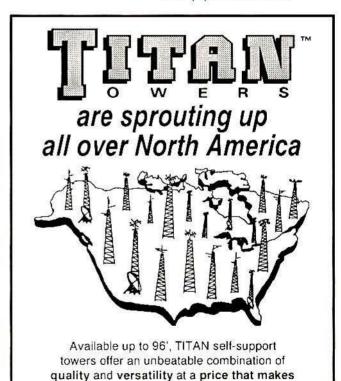
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Letters to the editor

By contrast, trunking systems provide the detailed data necessary to inform the system administration of its load condition while allowing the users to operate efficiently, unaffected by potential system problems. In that manner, user complaints and problems can be averted.

Whenever a public safety agency decides to change from conventional to trunked technology, it must change the way it manages and administers its technology. Otherwise, the agency will succumb to the dangers expressed in the December letter.

Unfortunately, the dangers the letter expresses are experienced by many who use trunked technology, but this does not have to be the case. Trunked system vendors do an excellent job of providing new technology. Publications such as MRT are among the few sources of information about how to plan and use that technology effectively.

> George W. Weimer, P.E. Vice President of Engineering Raymond C. Trott Consulting Engineers Irving, TX

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The maintenance field has degraded considerably in the last few years. Rather than a company promoting experienced technicians to middle management positions, inexperienced college persons are put into positions of responsibility.

They have no comprehension of the problems involved in troubleshooting, analyzing and repairing a piece of complex electronic equipment. They are of the opinion that a technician has no need of electronics knowledge and has no business taking time to learn even the basics of his assigned equipment, such as block diagram flow or the basic operating concept of the equipment.

Management's attitude is that they are not to be questioned; their judgment in these matters is absolute, and it is heresy to question decisions they make. Therefore, their response usually is either silence



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Letters to the editor

or derisive language whenever the subject of correcting their misconceptions is broached.

Diplomacy is seen as weakness, and all efforts are made to squelch communication on the subject.

No matter how much a person makes, his self respect, personal dignity and selfperceived worth are not for sale. Although it is unreasonable to flit from job to job in today's environment, it is obvious that companies with the attitude described above only are reaping the disgust, anger and eventually disloyalty justly due them because of their arrogance and lack of faith in their employees.

I would be interested in hearing comments on this subject from other readers. Others' views, positive or negative, would be helpful in assessing my own thoughts.

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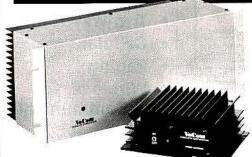


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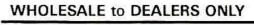
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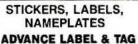
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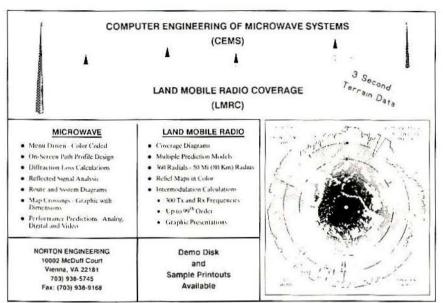
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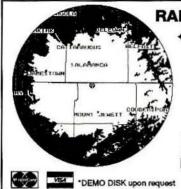


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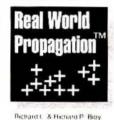
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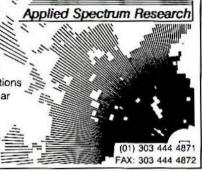
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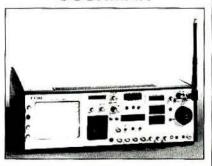
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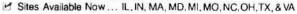


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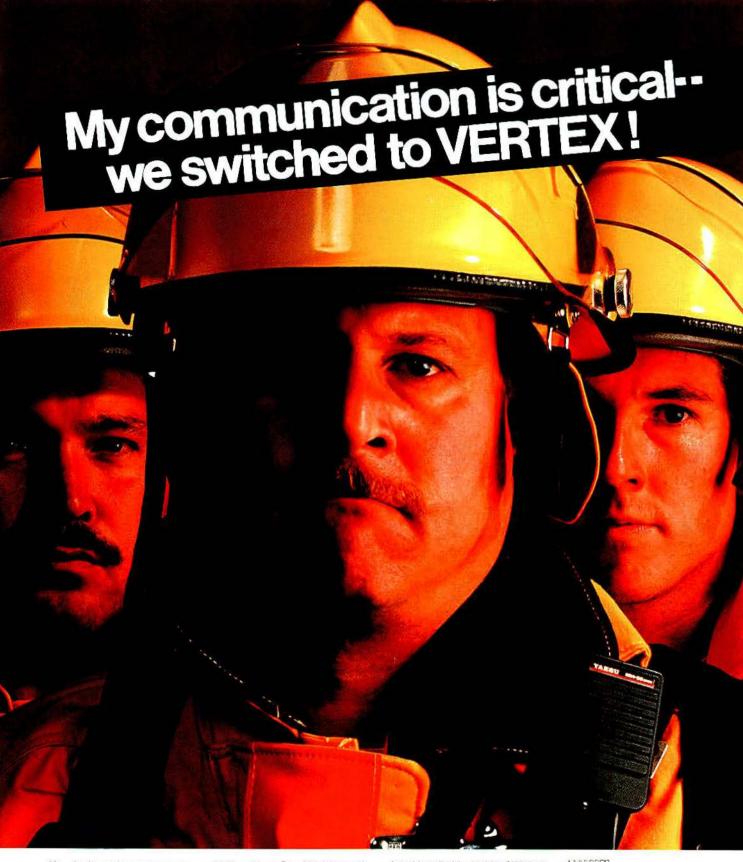
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